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BRIEFS

FUEL PRICE REDUCTION--Yesterday the government, through a decision adopted by the National Economic Coordination Council, authorized the reduction of the prices of gasohol and premium gasoline by 10 guaranies per liter. The measure will be enforced in the entire local market and will affect products processed by Paraguayan Petroleum, Inc (PETROPAR). [Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 6 Oct 81 p 9]

HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION--Yesterday afternoon the minister of public works and communications, Gen Juan Antonio Caceres and Finance Minister Gen Cesar Barrientos signed a contract for the prospection, exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the western region of Paraguay--covering more than 2,060,000 hectares--with the Piper Oil Company. The agreement provides for a 4-year term for prospecting and exploring, which can be extended for 2 more years. It provides for a 40-year period for exploiting the petroleum which is found. The firm is to invest \$2 million for exploration in the first 4 years, and if the contract is extended for 2 more years, it will invest a further \$1 million. [Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 27 Sep 81 p 4]

CSO: 3010/69

PERU-BOLIVIA SIGN AGREEMENT FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 20 Sep 81 p A-4

[Text] In Lima yesterday the governments of Peru and Bolivia, represented by their ministers of industry, adopted the first steps to achieve a stronger tie in the development of their economic programs.

In a joint statement signed by Minister Roberto Persivale Serrano for Peru and Minister Edgard Millares for Bolivia, they emphasized the need to encourage the formation of binational enterprises in different economic and production sectors.

They also stated the desire to expedite customs on both sides in order to facilitate commercial trade.

The document also refers to the urgency of organizing lumber and fishing complexes for a rational and planned exploitation of these resources.

There is also a need to encourage the agroindustrial programs in the respective areas in order to place the greatest quantity of food on the markets at prices within the reach of the majority.

The joint statement was signed during what has been called the "First Peruvian-Bolivian Meeting of Ministers of Industries," part of the reactivation of the Andean subregional process.

After the agreement was signed, Minister Persivale stressed that the Peruvian constitutional government and its president want integration. He also stressed the need for closer relations with Bolivia.

Edgard Millares indicated the scope of the document signed with his Peruvian colleague at this first meeting and also spoke out for more direct air traffic between La Paz and Cusco.

The Bolivian minister also advocated improvement of the Ilo-Desaguadero highway.

In other statements, Millares said that when he met with President Belaunde, he expressed some common problems of both countries as well as his satisfaction in the way the Andean process was being reactivated.

Bilateral Meetings

Minister Persivale announced that more meetings will soon be held at this level in the different capitals of the member countries of the Cartagena Pact.

There will be meetings in our capital between Peru and Ecuador and between Bolivia and Colombia in La Paz. He explained that they will provide new incentive to the integration process and improve its mechanisms.

7717

CSO: 3010/20

BRIEFS

INDUSTRY MINISTER OPENS ALADI MEETING—Last night Roberto Persivale, minister of industry, tourism and integration, opened the first meeting of high-level government delegates from the member countries of ALADI. Representatives of the 11 member countries attended this meeting of the rejuvenated integration organization, the first since the historic meeting in Montevideo last May to evaluate and change LAFTA to ALADI. Minister Persivale said that this meeting is important because it will define the corrections needed in the earlier integration plan which became inoperative because of the mechanisms that only permitted bilateral negotiations. The minister asked the delegates present to work hard and achieve the common objectives because integration is necessary for the progress and development of our peoples. He also pointed out that Peru has been chosen as the site for this first meeting of high-level government experts after that transitional stage when the Latin American countries reaffirmed their desire for integration. The Lima meeting which will last until next Saturday elected Jorge Vega Castro, head delegate from Peru and vice minister of integration, as president of the meeting. The vice presidents were the delegates from Mexico and Paraguay. As was reported in Lima, the member countries of the Cartagena Pact will present a joint position, establishing criteria, scopes, procedures and tasks to incorporate multilateral negotiations in the new ALADI. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Sep 81 p A-3] 7717

CSO: 3010/20

MALVINAS INVASION REPORTEDLY CONSIDERED IN 1978

PY112030 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 11 Oct 81 pp 3, 13

[Article from the "Politics and Labor" column by James Neilson: "Invertebrate Politics"]

[Excerpt] According to Admiral Massera's mouthpiece Cambio, in 1978 the admiral had proposed a military invasion of the Malvinas/Falklands "to accelerate the diplomatic negotiations." The operation was, however, shelved, perhaps because rumors of it had leaked out and Britain would have had time to send some of those very wicked warships it possesses into the zone. A surprise invasion would meet no resistance at all: the British garrison could be fitted inside a black Maria. A preannounced invasion's fate would depend on just how much damage Britain, a nuclear power which even in decadence has very sharp claws, would be prepared to inflict on an otherwise reasonably friendly country in a quarrel over some islands the foreign office desperately wants to discard in a dignified fashion. Just why that dispute was thought "intolerable" in 1978 is a matter for speculation. Perhaps, after finishing off the Montoneros, the ERP, and anyone who seemed connected with them in any way, the admiral was looking for new worlds within this capacity to conquer. Perhaps, as a military man, he wanted to solve the problem in a purely military style. Perhaps he wanted to distract attention from the "dirty war," which was not doing the regime's reputation much good, or the economic situation. Maybe he will tell us one day.

As it happens, even without Massera's naval talents being employed the Malvinas tug-of-war is going this country's way. The foreign minister, Oscar Camilion, was plainly encouraged by what Lord Carrington said to him a couple of weeks ago and he is convinced that new talks on the subject will start before the year's end, which is less than 3 months away. Britain is plainly aware that this is one it cannot win so the intelligent thing is to cut its losses. One of the principal obstacles, of course, is that the government here is an unrepresentative dictatorship with a somewhat grim reputation in Europe—it is not merely "right-wing" but it is also white, which puts it beyond the respectable pale. (If Viola were to rub boot polish on his face and to start reciting the Marxist litany, progressive opinion would oblige Britain to hand him the islands within a week). But as there is no prospect of a placid democratic government taking over here for some time to come the Brits will just have to deal with the government there is.

CSO: 3010/61

'LA NACION' ON AL-SADAT AFTERMATH

PY091738 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 8 Oct 81 p 8

[Article from the "National Politics" column: "Al-Sadat: Local Repercussion"]

[Text] The assassination of al-Sadat has given top priority here to comments on the consequences of the crime for world peace.

The more intellectual ones have wondered whether we are not at last facing another Sarajevo. The death of Archduke Ferdinand, [head of] the throne of Austria, in Serbia, was the drop--the drop of blood--that prompted the first great war in 1914.

The ordinary man, who does not know about this and other stories, is, however, aware of the extremely serious level of current international tensions. He also knows that it will be very difficult not to be influenced by a conflict between the great powers, if such a conflict suddenly breaks out as a result of the Middle East situation.

The pictures published in yesterday's papers and the television pictures sent by satellite have dramatically and instantaneously drawn the ordinary man close to the bloody attack which ended the life of a leader who was full of courage. These pictures have made him feel that he is also a part--although anonymous and helpless--of the tragic course that humanity's fate has been following in recent years.

But not everything can be seen clearly. There are also heavy shadows blinding the eyes of those who follow the course of world events and who try to reflect on them based on the Buenos Aires perspective. Nobody, not even the most experienced observer, could say that he has no questions to ask regarding the interpretation of the Argentine official position in the face of the Middle East crisis. After the cruel crime Foreign Minister Camilion said al-Sadat "has been a symbol of peace, harmony and dialogue for the benefit of his people." However, few issues of Argentine foreign policy have raised more controversy in official circles lately than the invitation extended to Argentina in the name of al-Sadat by the Egyptian foreign minister for Argentine troops to participate as overseers of the actual and total Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai peninsula.

The communists have undertaken the task that was objectively most advantageous to Soviet interests, and they have attacked with all available means Argentina's active participation in that issue, which concerns the Camp David agreements between Israel and Egypt. But the communists have not been alone. The lack of resolution—which broad Argentine political and military sectors show when a specific decision must be unhesitatingly made regarding foreign policy issues—has hampered, at least in the beginning, al-Sadat's desire. This symbol "for peace and harmony" that was al-Sadat, wanted we Argentines to cooperate in implementing a solution that had been agreed upon concerning the future of Sinai.

Like in several other issues, the responsibility for this hesitation rests not only on the government, but also on the military junta. In other words, the two of them share the responsibility, as in any other delicate government issue—ranging from the economic area to individual guarantees. This is so because the difference between the actions that each one of them performs—one of them governs and the other one supervises—is purely theoretical and it appears only in the written statements of the current institutional system.

Here we now face the loss of another valuable man where the overall political interests of the world to which we genuinely belong, are concerned. We voice our "deep pain" over the assassination of a man who has unhesitatingly been referred to by President Viola, in an official statement, as a "statesman." Yet we do not know what measures we could take in keeping with the alignment of our foreign policy to counter the gangs which are justified, supported and protected by the Soviet Union and its allies.

We will be flying our flag at half mast for 5 days as a testimony to our grief for the Egyptian tragedy, but we will surely continue adopting a timid policy toward the PLO and the Arab countries which oppose a definitive peaceful settlement between Israel and Egypt. The fact that some of the subversive groups operating in Argentina have been trained in the military training camps of those Arab countries seems to be a matter of little importance. This situation is countered by several arguments. One of them is that the influence which is exercised by the numerous Arab, African and socialist countries at international forums is a matter of genuine interest for our country. Another argument is that we could spoil the dream of good petrodollar investments in our country. We should not forget that the team of advisors to the president includes one who is an expert in those issues. [Not further identified]

As for the first argument, instead of worrying too much about the adverse result that such an international vote may have, the process ought to worry about the respect for individual rights and guarantees in our country. In other words, instead of paying attention to the good will of madmen like al-Qadhafi, the process should care for the deep significance of protests like the one staged the day before yesterday by practically all Argentine lawyers in support of the restoration of the full enforcement of the law.

As for the second argument, we can say frankly that potential investment in Argentina by one or two multimillionaire sheiks involves the situation which has most closely resembled in recent years the famous sale of a streetcar to a

provincial newcomer in Buenos Aires [a traditional swindle]. And this does not mean that, between coming and goings, the negotiators involved may not make sizeable earnings.

It is commendable that Foreign Minister Camilion, who has just made successful trips to the Vatican and to the United States, be present at al-Sadat's burial in the name of the Argentine Government. It would have been as much or even more commendable if the president had undertaken that mission. But no formality will be enough to make up for the ambiguity involved in the fact that we continue as members of a bloc [nonaligned] which is by chance presided over by the Cuban dictator, where some of our fellow members are the main countries involved in the search for the treacherous methods and ways aimed at wrecking the western world.

Getting over the Argentine policy will not be easy at all. It will require the correction of the course to which the opinion of the military has been committed and it will demand a reformulation of the position of the political parties which have a significant following in our country. Those parties have opposed Argentina's agreement to the request made by al-Sadat concerning the Sinai affair. Have they done so because al-Sadat did not represent well enough the desire for worldwide peace and harmony in the world?

CSO: 3010/61

FOREIGN MINISTER PLEDGES RETURN TO DEMOCRACY IN 3 YEARS

PY101151 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Oct 81

[Text] Relay for Bolivia from the 36th session of the UN General Assembly. (Jorge Reiner) reporting.

The Bolivian foreign minister, Gonzalo Romero Alvarez Garcia, has just delivered a speech at the UN General Assembly. In his speech he noted that the world's security is precarious because of frictions between the great blocs. He noted that these frictions are increasing day by day.

The Bolivian foreign minister reviewed the present situation of international affairs and noted the presence of colonialism in Latin America.

[Begin Romero Alvarez recording] We also express our wholehearted support for Argentina in its demands over the Malvinas. [End recording]

Foreign Minister Romero Alvarez Garcia also requested the resumption of negotiations [over the Malvinas] and noted the need to achieve regional agreements for the just exploitation and trade of resources. He added:

[Begin Romero Alvarez recording] We must note once again that the present international economic order is based on colonial and neocolonial attitudes which have been categorically condemned throughout history and that there are still those who want to perpetuate it. But it is obvious that if peace is to be achieved in this world we must first enforce justice and establish a new international economic order that must prevail in the relations of all countries in the world.

We must, therefore, lift protectionist barriers and avoid the practice of dumping, a measure through which some developed countries use their non-commercial reserves to cause the artificial collapse of prices of certain basic products. This is what Bolivia has periodically experienced regarding tin. [End recording]

The law of the sea is an issue of extreme importance for Bolivia, and therefore it is concerned over the deadlock in the negotiations that have been taking place since 1974 and which it was hoped would end in 1981.

[Begin Romero Alvarez recording] We regret that the long and fruitful debates aimed at achieving an international agreement regarding the new law of the sea

have been discontinued just before they were advancing to an end. We hope that those who had experienced circumstantial difficulties in achieving this agreement are now able to make their position compatible with the general interest of these negotiations which, because of their nature are of international importance.

Like other gifts of nature, the sea is inherent to the power, freedom, well-being and destiny of all peoples and it is also the common patrimony of all humanity.
[End recording]

Then the Bolivian foreign minister dedicated a passage of his speech to Latin American integration.

[Begin Romero Alvarez recording] Bolivia, which is located in the heart of South America and which has been at the crossroads of continental history, has fulfilled an important role in Latin American integration in keeping with its tradition and good will. Bolivia's territory extends from the River Plate basin to the Amazon River basin and to the coast of the South Pacific. In addition to being a territory that links many regions, Bolivia is, therefore, an area inevitably influenced by issues inherent to the geopolitical balance of the continent.

In keeping with this integrationist tradition, Bolivia is an active member of ALADI [Latin American Integration Association]; the Andean Pact; the Amazon Cooperation Treaty; the River Plate basin; URUPABOL [Permanent Joint Commission of Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia] and other integration organizations. But it is obvious that since these regional and sub-regional integration agreements have been established in keeping with our aspiration to achieve the development of our countries, they do not tolerate any ideology that will violate the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries or their pluralism, which are basic to achieving international coexistence. [End recording]

[Begin Romero Alvarez recording] I wish to mention once again at this exalted forum the landlocked situation which Bolivia has been enduring for a century now, and to make a call for international solidarity toward the quest for a peaceful solution capable of fulfilling Bolivia's inalienable and permanent right to recover its captive outlet to the sea.

Maintaining this unfair situation, taking into account the moral and material damage which it inflicts upon our people, is tantamount to maintaining a degree of tension in the area which could jeopardize Latin America's peace and security.

Bolivia's demand for a geographically connected sovereign sea outlet without any territorial compensations has received considerable support; among them is that voiced by the 9th OAS assembly. [End recording]

Further on, Gonzalo Romero Alvarez Garcia said that in 3 years his government would return to the path of democracy.

[Begin Romero Alvarez recording] The current landlocked situation of the country is hampering its overall development. Because of this, as well as other temporary reasons, we are facing economic and financial problems which give rise to social frustration that in turn lead to political unease. Recently we experienced

certain institutional upheavals, which have been overcome without bloodshed thanks to the patriotism and calmness of the armed forces and the maturity of the people.

A firm government with considerable prestige now rules the nation. Public order prevails in Bolivia and the right to work is being guaranteed. We believe that the people, the Bolivians are the leading actors of national history and that the human element is the nation's most valuable asset. In this regard, every activity of the state and every effort at developing the economy is aimed at the well-being and fulfillment of the persons.

Within the framework of this great political project that is heavily social-oriented, the Bolivian working class--peasants, miners and city workers--is ranked very high. Both public freedoms and the essential rights of man are being respected. There are no political prisoners in Bolivia. A special UN envoy will pay us a visit in response to a spontaneous invitation issued by our government in order to see for himself the peaceful, free and secure atmosphere which the Bolivian people carry out their activities.

On behalf of our government, we can announce that within 3 years Bolivia will return to the path of democratic institutionalism. [End recording]

The foreign minister also discussed drug addiction.

[Begin Romero Alvarez recording] So as to protect the moral standards of our people and to fulfill the universal desire to eradicate drug addiction, our government is currently conducting a difficult but unfaltering struggle against clandestine manufacture of narcotics and their criminal marketing. [End recording]

The Bolivian representative concluded his speech by saying:

[Begin Romero Alvarez recording] Bolivia, a landlocked nation, wishes to reiterate its faith in justice and in this international organization as well as its conviction that evils like war, poverty and discrimination will be defeated one day thanks to our spiritual strength and universal solidarity which is our hope for progress and peace. Thank you. [End recording]

CSO: 3010/69

LIBERAL PARTY CAMPAIGN HEATS UP, FORMER PRESIDENTS ACTIVE

Three Barco Books Published

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 3 Sep 81 p 19-A

[Text] The last three books by candidate Virgilio Barco will be presented by the Carlos Valencia Publishing House at a ceremony to be held in Casa de Moneda today at 1900.

Prominent figures in politics, industry and literature will attend the ceremony. Publisher Carlos Valencia and the author, candidate Virgilio Barco, will be the speakers.

The first of the Barco books is titled "Economy, Planning and Social Policy." It is a collection of technical essays written by Barco during past years and others of more recent date.

The second book, "Party Struggle and International Policy," contains speeches and documents of the last 30 years, during which Barco has been the protagonist and participant in important political events. This volume also contains a collection of writings on the participation by the candidate in various international missions and his opinions on the border controversy between Colombia and Venezuela.

"Administrative Action" is the title of the third book and it contains a review of the activities by Barco in the various public posts he has held throughout the 35 years he has served the country. Prominent in it is the work he performed as minister of public works and of agriculture, city magistrate of the capital of the republic, international diplomat and official in the World Bank and as a member of several important missions abroad.

Barco Movement Issues Statement

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 16 Sep 81 p 11-A

[Text] The headquarters of the Barquista Movement yesterday issued a document in which it establishes the position of Liberalism with respect to the convention to be held in Medellin on Saturday.

The text of that statement is as follows:

Upon his arrival in the country at the end of October last year, Dr Virgilio Barco said that before speaking of presidential candidacies the greatest importance should be given to the reorganization of the party which is underway; that the Liberal Party should acquire an awareness of the need for it and for its unity as a majority and governing party and in view of the problems of the world and nation which become more serious every day. He also said that he considers the formula of a direct election in the selection of the party candidate for the Presidency of the Republic as excellent and that he was willing to submit his name for public consideration under such a procedure if it is adopted within the framework of the organization the party is creating for itself.

Liberal Organization Process

The Liberal organization process was begun when the former presidents, together with the National Liberal Leadership of that time, sent an important message on 25 July last year in which they traced the bases to be submitted to the consideration of the Legislative Board. Those bases were approved unanimously by the Board and in compliance with them the process of organization the convention was accelerated, convention which met in December of that same year to approve the rules of the game for the selection of a single candidate of the party for the Presidency of the Republic and for the election of new leadership.

Exceptional Leadership

Liberals of all shadings joyously received the acclamation by the convention of 13 December of the names of former Presidents Lleras Camargo, Lleras Restrepo and Lopez Michelsen to make up the new party leadership and to lead the process which should conclude in the convention to be held 19 September this year in Medellin. The satisfaction of the Liberals at this decision derived from the fact that the destiny of the country was being put in the hands of the highest figures of the party, beyond personal ambitions, as the result of impartiality in the candidacy process. The three men had repeatedly expressed their opposition to reelection and there was even the precedent that Dr Lopez Michelsen, as president of the republic, had presented a bill to Congress forbidding it.

As a result, the former presidents came to insure compliance with the rules of the game, full guarantees for all who would want to forward their names for consideration by the party, the preparation of a program in which all sectors will participate and the selection of a presidential candidate representing an authentic unity. In this manner, Liberal policy would be free of confusions and errors and, therefore, of surprises and advantages for some of the contestants. On 2 July 1981, Dr Alfonso Lopez declared in Armenia: "I am a member of the National Leadership of the Liberal Movement responsible for helping his party by contributing with his neutrality in matters of candidacies. I do not know how there can still be people who believe that I can take advantage of a position within the National Liberal Leadership to obtain advantages of any type."

This would be the only way to insure the holding of a Convention, whose decisions are heeded and respected unanimously by the party and which would select a candidate who would not arouse resentments or oppositions in some sectors and lead them to withdraw from the debate or not give the necessary help for the victory of the Liberal Movement.

Reelection Hinted

The Liberals began to note how this action of neutrality was deteriorating in the degree that one of the members of the leadership was indicated and pushed by his political friends as a possible party candidate despite the repeated declarations by former President Lopez that he would not be a candidate and that he was not in favor of reelection. On 9 April 1981, Dr Lopez, when asked about the proposing of his candidacy, maintained that "it is a very wornout subject." However, on the 22nd of that same month he compared his position toward candidacy like that of the "15-year-old, who despite the fact that she is not in love must accept a suitor because of pressure from her parents."

Withdrawal of Lleras Restrepo

This change of position began to have its effects and former President Lleras Restrepo withdrew from the Liberal Movement leadership for the express purpose of recovering his freedom of analysis of public and party problems. In the exercise of this freedom he has said that a period as dramatic as that which began in 1942 and ended in 1946 could begin for the Liberal Movement, with the added aggravation that in his opinion the party today is more confused and less dynamic than at that time.

Request for Definitions

Former President Lleras Camargo tried to clear up this ambiguous situation of the supporters of reelection and in an editorial in the daily EL TIEMPO he asked former President Lopez for a categorical definition as to the objectives of his political followers, which had not been very well explained in an interview granted a few days previously by Dr Lopez.

As far as former President Lleras Camargo is concerned, it was obvious that the nomination of Dr Lopez could only be accepted if he withdrew from the leadership and went through all the formalities required for nominees pursuant to the norms established by the last convention. He said at the time: "The campaign for reelection, apparently against the will of Dr Lopez, would nullify the good and great efforts by the National Leadership to defend the legitimacy created by the last convention and would encourage the conviction among the supporters of that policy, and among its opponents even more, that the game had been played with marked cards and, unequivocally, new candidates from everywhere, except from the National Liberal Movement, would appear to be taken to Medellin."

Self-Serving Interpretation

The reply to this request for an urgent clarification of Liberal policy was the rejection by a group of senators in a message in which they declared "The convention was sovereign and had no other restrictions than those it established itself through a decision of the majority of its members, and the convention which approved the rules and elected the leadership did not create, nor could it do so, inelegibilities or disqualifications of any type." Moreover, they considered the petition a veto and defended the autonomy of the Regional Conventions convoked for the election of delegates and proclamation of nominees, and freedom of the National Convention to select the best suited candidate without any interference of any type.

Disintegration of the Leadership

Former President Lleras Camargo, in view of the lack of definition of such an important matter, resigned from the leadership in a letter dated last 17 August because his presence in it would be uncomfortable for him. It is to be supposed that it would also be uncomfortable for former President Lopez, who in turn considered that it was a matter of a threat to "force me to make a decision which only concerns the Party Convention, the only authority which can offer me the candidacy or offer it to the signer, who independently considering interests which are higher than his own, can either accept it or refuse it."

Violation of Bylaws

When the leadership disintegrated because of the withdrawal of two of its members, the Central Political Committee had the specific mandate of Article 37 of the bylaws for immediately convoking the convention to fill the vacancies. The article states specifically: "In the case of an absolute lack, the Central Political Committee shall convoke the National Convention to extraordinary sessions so that it may elect the new leadership. It is understood to be an absolute lack in the Plural Leadership when only one of its members is in the exercise of his post." Everything indicated that the proper thing to do was to elect a new impartial and legitimate leadership which would preside over the process of selection of the presidential candidate until the convention and during its deliberations. The committee, giving a lax and excessive interpretation to the bylaws, became the leadership on its own and labeled the Medellin Convention as "extraordinary." It could have very well, if the spirit of maintaining impartiality had existed, remitted the problem to the Board of Legislators, which on many occasions has appointed the leadership of the party, or it could have postponed the Medellin Convention or held it in two phases.

Actions by Virgilio Barco For Unity

In view of the dangers which these events represented for the unity of the party and the success of the Medellin meeting, the legislators who support the candidacy of Dr Barco issued a statement in which they rejected the procedure used by the Central Political Committee and issued a warning on the subject.

Subsequently, Dr Barco, in a message dated 29 August, addressed the same political commission and once more pointed out the irregularities that were being presented emphasized that the victory of the Liberal Movement next year depends on unity, a good program and the fervent enthusiasm which can be awakened in the Liberal masses so that they will mobilize around the great interests of the country and the party without reticence or misgivings among persons or groups. In that message he requested that the committee grant an audience to a delegation from his movement which would consist of Senators Jaime Posada, Enrique Pardo Parra and Jaime Vidal Perdomo and Representatives Pedro Martin Leyes and Julio Cesar Sanchez, so that a study can be made of the way to return credibility to the rules of the game of the convention, in large part lost, an agreement on some procedures that will insure full safeguards for all sectors, and seek to make the Medellin Convention fully successful, not only within the framework of its deliberations but in the broader sense of national support for its decisions.

Explore New Avenues

The delegates of Dr Barco carried out his instructions of asking whether the political committee was willing to explore other avenues for restoring the impartiality of the process which would insure participation of public opinion in the selection of the candidate, and the preparation of new guidelines which would be a proof of guarantees for all sectors of the party in view of the fact that the rules of the game had been undermined by events which are of public knowledge and of unquestionable evidence. They also asked the committee that other procedural aspects aimed at guaranteeing the success of the convention be examined.

The proposals made by the delegates of Dr Barco received a negative reply in all their aspects. First, it was answered that it was impossible to call a Convention before 19 September and, second, it was said that any initiative must be presented to the consideration of the National Convention.

Lopez Michelsen Letter

The dialog which had been initiated in the first meeting was cancelled by the unfortunate missive sent by former President Lopez Michelsen dated 7 September, which is a list of many complaints and is a real rejection of the efforts at Liberal unity.

In the letter, its author already speaking as a chief of a group and a nominee and with a tone used by the majority of the members of the Political Committee, introduced elements of discord difficult to overcome.

In the first place, he decided to give a self-serving interpretation to the candidacy of Dr Barco, presenting it as something without support within the Liberal Movement and arbitrarily calling it a "hammer against the political country," knowing full well that such candidacy has broad popular backing, which was proved by public demonstrations and opinion polls, and knowing full well also that it has the support of important political leaders in all regions of the country and a considerable number of delegates with the right to attend the Medellin Convention.

On the other hand, using the terms employed by Dr Jorge Eliecer Gaitan 35 years ago, but with an entirely different perception, he tries arbitrarily to pit the Liberal political class, who are members of the movements of all the nominees, against the national country, from which nothing other than confusion and antagonisms, which will make difficult the good progress of the party and the nation, can result.

The letter by Dr Lopez also poses an unacceptable position because he withdraws his name prior to any possible popular election and denying to the Liberal Movement the right to analyze--in view of his new aspirations--the actions of government and the advisability of reelection.

Finally, it must be pointed out that the aforementioned letter shows a lack of consideration and fairness to former Presidents Lleras Camargo and Lleras Restrepo, which does injury to the liberal sentiments because the party respects their illustrious lives and fully recognizes the great service they have performed for the people and republic for more than 50 years of effective and clean public life.

Proposal for a Great Accord

Despite that the delegates of Dr Barco insisted on the need for promoting a great accord, with the cooperation and encouragement of the Political Committee, before the convention so as to reestablish trust in the liberal organization and they said that in order to study that accord an attempt will be made to obtain the collaboration of the former presidents and if necessary that of the president of the republic himself, Dr Turbay Ayala. This was not favorably received by the members of the Political Committee either.

The neutral sector of the party, which according to the words of its members "is not an option for competition but a diligent action for promoting cordiality and liberal good sense," has in turn made some important efforts to save the process of unity, which have also been ignored. One of its members has responded intelligently to the reelectionist arrogance saying: "We liberals must beware of a passive division" and a "damaged candidate," taking into consideration that the convention nominates the candidate but the president of the republic is elected by the Colombian majorities and that a lack of consensus on the management of the convention would cause a part of liberalism to abstain from voting and from helping to make a success of the presidential mandate.

As a consequence, due to the moral conviction we have that the procedure for impartially selecting the candidate of Liberalism to the presidency of the republic has been changed, the name of Dr Barco, who will moreover be absent from the Medellin meeting, will not be presented there as a candidate and no one is authorized to present it.

The promoters of presidential reelection, who violated the rules of the game, must fully assume the responsibilities of the convention, whose results will be in keeping with the will and objectives of one sector of the party.

Once the Medellin Convention is over, Dr Barco will gather the representatives of the forces which have stayed with him in the campaign to study and decide on the way the movement will advance with a view to insuring that Liberalism will have the right to express itself freely with respect to the presidential candidacy of the party, on reelection and with respect to the campaign for forming the collegiate bodies. Bogota, D.E. 15 September 1981.

Barco's Letter to 'Neutrals'

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 16 Sep 81 p 11-A

[Text] Dr Virgilio Barco Vargas yesterday sent a message to the neutral legislators, whose text is as follows:

Bogota, D.E. 15 September 1981

Honorable Senators Jorge Tadeo Lozano, Guillermo Plazas Alcid and other members of the neutral group.

City,

Distinguished fellow party members and friends:

I answer your esteemed communication of yesterday and in doing so I wish to express my appreciation of your praiseworthy attempts to secure for Liberalism the ideal means for overcoming the crisis which affects it.

As can be seen from the contents of your important document, the process followed for organizing the party and preparing it for the electoral contest of 1982 today appears perturbed and confused. For myself, I have been participating in the field established for competing for the liberal candidacy, subjecting myself strictly to the standards established with persistent good faith. At no time, however, have I set aside the concept that the controversies of the competition are subordinated to the high interests of the party and primarily its unity. This area, whose deterioration deeply concerns you, has been, and continues to be the guiding light of my actions and statements.

Thus, through delegates from my political movement, an insistent demand for obtaining a political accord which would remove interference from the internal process and reestablish Liberal credibility at the party convention was sent to the Political Committee after the disintegration of the National Liberal Leadership.

The majority decision by the Central Political Committee did not allow the possibility of that accord. On the other hand, the 7 September letter from Dr Alfonso Lopez Michelsen has placed a categorical opinion of Liberal division in the path of the convention. Moreover, in the letter the writer has decided on the limits of the competition and the Liberal people are given restrictions on the contenders. Such antecedents and conditions become difficult barriers to the praiseworthy objectives of the neutrals.

My decisions, and those of those who have been sharing this campaign with me, continue to be guided by an intransigent aspiration for Liberal unity and an overwhelming party victory.

Accept my cordial expressions of friendship and esteem. Virgilio Barco.

Lopez Nominated by Liberals

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Sep 81 pp 1-A, 15-A

[Article by Gabriel Gutierrez: "Lopez, Candidate and Only Chief"]

[Text] Medellin, 19--Former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen tonight accepted the presidency of Liberalism when he was elected by the party National Convention, which met after two days of intensive work and great controversy.

"A candidate once more, I place myself under the sponsorship of Antioquia just as it happened to me in the 1973 Convention when I attended with the delegates of the mountain in representation of the municipality of Concordia," said Lopez in his acceptance speech.

He indicated that he fully accepts the task given him by the convention and he said: "I will go out, not only to defend my name as an inspiration, but to defend the legitimacy of this assembly."

The candidate set himself the initial and priority task of seeking Liberal unity and said that "I make an invitation to unity, an invitation I extend equally to the highest personalities of Liberalism, the natural chiefs and the rank and file." Lopez also proposed a "truce" in the ranks of Liberalism while the campaign for legislative elections is promoted "and then the waging of the presidential campaign with all vigor." The holding of the convention was preceded by an entire day of intensive political maneuvering in the Intercontinental and Nutibara Hotels. There was even the posing of a difficult situation when the sector headed by nominee Alberto Santofimio Botero threatened to withdraw from the contest.

Espinosa and Santofimio, the Chiefs of the Debate

The Santofimio adherents conditioned their presence at the convention to the election of a new DLN [National Liberal Leadership] (without giving full powers to Lopez as was suggested by other sectors), the inclusion in it of Dr Santofimio, the creation of the new Central Political Committee and the voting of the popular election as the first item of the agenda.

After many meetings and goings and comings of the negotiators, an accord was sought through the direct mediation of former President Lopez Michelsen and deliberations took place at the exhibition center under a strong guard of secret and uniformed agents.

At the last moment, a hard line headed by Jose Neme Teran and German Bula Hoyos made its appearance in the Santofimio sector, a group which asked for certain conditions for prior agreements on different matters.

Here there was great regret that nominee Virgilio Barco was not present and it was said by several delegates that if he had come things would have been different as in the case of popular election, theory which at a certain time appeared to have a good number of votes.

The convention was called to order by former President Victor Mosquera Chaux after 1700. Former Minister German Zea was acclaimed chairman of the contest by a prior agreement. The convention brought together around 450 delegates from the entire country in representation of the various Liberal factions.

By invitation of important legislative delegates, Senator Augusto Espinosa was responsible for proposing the presidential candidacy of Dr Lopez Michelsen. Espinosa said that he did not propose his own candidacy for consideration and that in turn he asked his friends and other delegates at the convention to support Lopez Michelsen.

The New Government

In his speech, former President Lopez Michelsen said that he hopes the next government will be "a bridge between the present version of democracy and a full democracy; they are alternatives and options without conditions." [as published]

As to what his style of government would be, Lopez indicated that greater autonomy will be given to the work of the ministers and he said: "There will be a change of tutelage toward powers and persons who for many years led us by the hand." With respect to the program, he emphasized the conquest of peace, jobs and the struggle against concentration of wealth by the financial sector.

Lopez said he has won the presidential candidacy, not as a common ambitious man or through deals, but because the people saw in him the best choice of the moment. He said: "In the highly improbable case that in the March elections the number of voters who oppose me justifies my withdrawal, I will not hesitate to support Dr Barco or anyone."

In his 13-page speech, former President Lopez replied to EL TIEMPO for the publication of several editorials and he added that the general climate "is not proper for adding an escalation of insults within Liberalism."

Position of Groups

Before the holding of the convention the various sectors attending it established their positions:

The Barco faction decided to cast blank votes for the presidential candidate, repeated its support for President Turbay and demanded firm action in favor of unity "without boastful winners or excluded losers."

The Espinosa faction faced an internal difference and while some asked for the election of the DLN at the convention, others demanded full powers for Lopez. The majority of them were also against popular election [of candidates].

The Santofimio faction was always ready to vote in favor of popular election and to present the candidacy of Alberto Santofimio at his request. This faction conditioned its presence to the assurance that popular election of candidates would be voted upon, the election of the DLN and the change of the Central Political Committee either by the convention (improbable) or by the legislative board.

Some of the neutrals were in favor of popular election and others were not. As far as candidacies are concerned, many preferred Lopez and a small group preferred Santofimio. Some neutrals wanted their mediation work to show up in the makeup of the DLN.

Finally, the Lopez faction was in favor of giving full powers to the former president so that he could name the leadership of the party and it was against popular election, whether or not Dr Lopez Michelsen advocated it here today as he did in his Isla Arena letter.

Barco Followers Vote Blank

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Sep 81 p 15-A

[Article by Leonel Fierro: "Barco Faction Votes Blank"]

[Text] Medellin, 19--The Barco faction cast blank ballots during the presidential candidate elections.

That position was decided in a document read by Minister of Foreign Affairs Diego Uribe Vargas and signed by Abelardo Forero Benavides, Armando Rico Avendano, Jose Guerra Tulena, Carlos Martin Leyes, Alvaro Perez Vives, Hernando Turbay Turbay, Gerardo Leon Peedroz, Pedro Martin Leyes, Julio Cesar Guerra Tulena, Luis Pupo, Julio A. Hernandez and Guillermo Cuy.

The text of the statement is as follows:

"The undersigned delegates to the liberal convention of Medellin wish to repeat once more the urgency of the unity of the party as the only guarantee of victory in the presidential elections of May 1982. [This must be] a unity, which respecting the various sectors of the population, achieves the united action of Liberalism without discriminations in the defense of its programs and ideological platforms and the determined support of the work of the present government headed by Dr Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala.

For several months, we who sign the present statement have enthusiastically supported Dr Virgilio Barco Vargas as a guarantee of a victory for Liberalism. The personality of Dr Barco has been emerging as one of the statesmen with the most profound knowledge of the national and international situation, as well as the leader who has surrounded himself with Liberals of all strata and whose style and vigor guarantees full compliance with the social and economic programs of the party.

In the past hours Dr Virgilio Barco has publicly declared that he will not present his name for the consideration of the Medellin Liberal Convention and that he will not authorize his supporters to do so either. In view of this circumstance, those of us who are supporting his candidacy can find no other solution than that of casting blank ballots when we are asked to vote for the selection of the candidate. Such an action is a new homage to Dr Virgilio Barco and his eminent figure as a Liberal leader.

We have come to this convention with the objective of defending the unity of the party, contributing to its internal harmony and maintaining the institutions. We interpret in that way the feelings of all the Liberals, who view with horror the prolongation of a division which could very well poison spirits and make them willing to engage in irrevocable confrontations.

If the Medellin Convention decides to proclaim a presidential candidacy, we hope that conditions can be established which will make possible the cohesion of all the people to support it and insure his victory without boastful winners or excluded losers. We understand that during the campaign, which now begins for finding the support of public opinion for the Liberal candidate, it will be necessary to spare no efforts for acquiring the support of the people and obtain the best conditions for success. For that objective, whether it be during the elections for creating the public corporations or through whatever authentication instruments may be established, we shall always be at the service of unity and of everything that means the survival of Liberalism in power."

Press Comments on Nomination

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Sep 81 p 9-A

[Text] The press throughout the country reacted in various ways to the selection of former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen as the presidential candidate of Liberalism.

The newspapers stated their positions in editorials which appeared yesterday, two days after the selection of Lopez at the Medellin Convention. Some excerpts of those editorials appear as follows:

EL ESPECTADOR, Liberal, of Bogota

Editorial titled "After the Fair." "We have nothing to add for our readers [apparently a line was dropped at this point] since none of the usual considerations in politics affect us so that we have to praise the candidacy of Dr Alfonso Lopez Michelse, approved by the Lopez-favoring Medellin Convention. There is no doubt that there was a quorum present there and that he won more than enough of the votes required. However, that is not our point as persons who fulfill the duty of uttering opinions, whether the powerful like it or not. Historical errors do not always depend on majorities or minorities. The majorities may be mistaken and the duty of commentators is to say so. However, in Medellin within the recent 'philosophy' or 'strategy' of the winner, the criterion of the club, guild or union of the professional politicians won over that of service to the Colombians.

"...We are not public relations sponsors or agents, nor do we manipulate anything in politics. We report with truth and we comment with freedom. Those present at Medellin made a mistake with Lopez, that is the main thing, almost the only thing, that we should say today. As journalist we have the right to minimal safeguards for which we are ready to fight, and we shall do so, even if the case were to appear in which the struggle becomes unequal because of the arrogance of power and arbitrariness. Even in democracies as mature as that of the United States the institutional controls fail and it is then, as happened at Watergate, that newsmen are the promoters of justice and the moral demands of society. That is what we want to be and that is why you must not count on us to be part of the chorus."

EL SIGLO, Conservative of Bogota

Editorial: "The Candidacy of Lopez." "Liberalism has resolved the problem of the presidential candidacy. We do not know whether for good or evil. Perhaps no one knows because in the ranks of this party opposed opinions are also resounding. Some think that the only selection possible was made and others believe that a historical mistake has been made. The arduous polemic this process of selection has aroused had no convincing elements for these unprepared opinions. It is possible that those who were not involved in the political game today think the same as they did from the beginning.

"...When it was noted that there were serious reservations of a moral order among the top Liberal echelons, the candidacy of Dr Virgilio Barco was favored. The strategists of that candidacy did not note that one after the other the anti-Lopez and anti-Turbay elements were coming to that conclusion. At a given moment, without trying, that banner acquired a challenging meaning for the political class which today controls Liberalism.

"It is possible that this may have been the reason for the failure of Dr Barco, not only, as is said, because that candidate lacks oratorical skills or because he unpardonably failed to take advantage of the marvelous opportunities given to him to express an opinion. Dr Barco showed a great fear of committing an error, which let him to propose nothing at any time; he did not commit himself to any theory and he never expounded any ideas. This was an excess of prudence which left him with only the halo of being a good man."

"...We shall oppose the candidacy of former President Lopez Michelsen, as we did 7 years ago. The only thing is that then we only supposed that his way of governing would be inadequate for obtaining the development we proposed and now we know it from experience. The great transformation the country needs was at no time a matter of concern for the Liberal spokesmen of the various factions. The result obtained does not mean anything for the future unless it is the compilation of averages obtained on the basis of the performances of the last two administrations, which gives a very low coefficient and which makes it impossible to base any illusions on it."

LA REPUBLICA, conservative, of Bogota

"The Squall of the pro-Lopez Convention." "The comedy of manipulations and fake decisions ended Saturday night in Medellin, as had been foreseen. The final results were characterized by the prattle of a late night malevolent tango with deceived swains, calculated felony and many melancholy frustrations. By itself the pro-Lopez assembly was the most obvious demonstration of the chaotic and lamentable situation which today afflicts the government party."

"...Under those circumstances, which obviously contain a serious threat to the country, the national candidacy of Belisario Betancur will perforce gain strength and a final direction before the conscience and clear vision of the Colombians.

At this crucial moment it is a patriotic duty, in view of the national emergency and as an elementary movement of defense and sense of self-preservation, to support without vacillations the broad principles which Dr Betancur has been tenaciously preaching throughout the country. He is a candidate free of hates, with a clean and tranquil record of struggle and service to the country."

EL MUNDO, Liberal, Medellin

"The historic National Liberal Convention culminated happily with the election of Dr Alfonso Lopez Michelsen as the official candidate for the presidency of the country, the appointment of the leadership for Liberalism and the approval of the ideological platform with which the party will enter the electoral contest and which will be their program after the victory."

"...However the Liberal Party has managed to put things in their place with the Medellin Convention. The elected candidate has all the qualities for performing the task of president with more than enough competence. He is an experienced statesman, profoundly aware of the country's problems, obviously intelligent and with an irreducible will to serve. The platform required of him by Liberalism when it chose him as its decisive card in its aspirations to govern is the result of a long discussion initiated at the beginning of the year with the "Preamble to the Liberal Forum" as a guideline, which resulted in specific ideas proposed in the six forums held."

EL PUEBLO, Liberal, Cauca Valley

"Heading Toward the Future" "With the candidacy of Dr Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, the leadership of the debate in the hands of Alberto Santofimio Botero and Augusto Espinosa Valderrama and the new three-member leadership of the party made up of Abelardo Forero Benavides, Victor Mosquera Chaux and Gustavo Balcazar Monzon, the union of the absolutely majority forces of Liberalism was stamped and sealed at the Medellin Convention.

"We cannot hide the satisfaction we feel at having been the first to proclaim Lopez even when there were still certain vacillations and when some still harbored doubt and discouragement. We had the authority born of the respect we always had for Drs Santofimio and Espinosa, two outstanding values of Liberalism, the former being the victim of an ignoble persecution and the latter now on the pillory of the media for being steadfast and loyal to this party."

Lopez Letter of Acceptance

Former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen declared he accepted everything pertaining to Liberal policy and issued the following document, which he wrote last weekend in Cartagena:

Doctor Victor Mosquera Chaux, Gentlemen members of the Political Central Committee, Colombian Liberal Party

City

Dear fellow party members and friends:

Some weeks ago in Bucaramanga, when the National Liberal Leadership elected in the last convention had not yet disintegrated, I allowed myself to say with the approval of the legitimate authorities of the party, that what was losing for Liberalism was not so much division as confusion. I wish to repeat this diagnosis once more, pointing out certain facts from whose evaluation beneficial results may be obtained on the path to casting light on the present policy. It is of public knowledge that as of years past to the present an abyss has been dug between the leaders of the Liberal Party in the regions and the directors, editors and columnists of the capital's Liberal press. Generically, those who do not agree with the initiatives orientations and antipathies of this media are labeled "the political country" and "patronage seekers." All those who second the media objectives are exempted from all antagonistic epithets even though they belong to the same class. It also happens that those who have a column in those publications and are, or were, in turn part of that so-called "political country" use them to promote their legitimate aspirations or their disillusion, downgrading their recent colleagues because they are part of the detestable legislative class.

It is an old squabble, with which I have nothing to do because, as the country knows, my late-coming political activity had little to do with conventions, lists or public employment in reaching the objectives of my political thinking. I arrived, 15 years after Dr Virgilio Barco, to the House of Representatives as a dissident, without a share of power of any kind for my followers, proscribed by an iron curtain which shut off our access to the press and television so that we could express our dissent.

I still recall with tenderness the obligation imposed on me in some television program to submit to censorship beforehand and my presentation was restricted to the origins of the flowers of the Bogota Savannah.

Upon my arrival in government, just in case some do not remember it well, I was labeled a "technocrat" and a "bad friend" because I placed the state above my feelings and did not choose my advisers with the criterion of "patronage." I am, therefore, by nature and background, alien to that squabble which has become aggravated with the years between the so-called "political country" and the "national country." Despite everything, I cannot ignore the services to democracy, the country, Liberalism and its leaders of bygone days by the regional leaders, who with their activity and self-sacrifice have maintained the values of our political and cultural heritage.

The candidacy of Dr Virgilio Barco, appearing originally from the editorial offices of a local newspaper, from the beginning was one of the banners of confrontation to which I am referring. Welcomed by some sectors of the party, I myself viewed the aspirations of Engineer Barco with support since I had already hinted at such a candidacy on previous occasions. I had shown my trust in him by appointing him to the first among the embassies of the country and I, in turn, owed him many favors such as his help in my presidential campaign. I have no rivalry of any kind with Dr Virgilio Barco and, on the contrary, there are many who have joined his movement: former ministers, former ambassadors, former governors, former officials of my administration and, at the same time, some close friends who supported his candidacy after they learned in advance, directly and personally, that I had no intentions of running for reelection. As I recalled in recent statements, I asked them to go with the candidate they liked, who generally was Dr Barco. One single example proves that I had no presidential ambitions. Contrary to the story disseminated, according to which President Turbay was the remote agent who caused the resignation of Dr German Zea Hernandez so that he would be available, withdrawing from his post before the deadline for his ineligibility arrived, it was some of my friends who requested him to do so in view of my refusal to be a candidate for the presidential nomination.

I have not sought any candidacy and if those who dislike me do not know it from me personally, it is because usually one is closer to ones friends than to his enemies.

As everyone should remember, the Barco candidacy, used as a "hammer against the political country" within the context I have pointed out, did not "catch fire," did "not take off, did not prosper," or whatever you may want to call the lack of enough support in the activist world of Liberalism. His first sorties were not fortunate either. He became the captain of minority sectors which took advantage of Barco political gatherings to insult the leaders of the regions.

The concept that he was not "taking off" became generalized to the extent that there were rumors that President Turbay was secretly the author of the electoral freeze that was noted and when he made statements that he would be pleased to see the acceleration of the candidate selection process, its lack of success was attributed to the advantage enjoyed by Dr Santofimio and, finally, to a lack of definition of the undersigned, as if true prestige grew or declined because there were still third parties who could overshadow him. Obviously, the candidacy of Dr Alberot Santofimio Botero began gaining force. He became, until the elections ordered by the Council of State for the department of Bolivar, a source of serious concern for the Liberal leadership, who were receiving the most alarmist reports on the course of his struggle against his opponents who supported the National Liberal Leadership. I then explained in Armenia that the advantage of Dr Santofimio Botero over his opponents was due to the fact that none of them yet had the appearance of a candidate but rather that of a nominee and I said his numerical superiority was insured as soon as Dr Barco and Dr Espinosa became official candidates. The rest is known by the country. It was demonstrated in Bolivar that neither the smoothness nor eloquence of Dr Santofimio is reason enough for ignoring the political class, whose services to the community maintains loyalties which are almost impossible to replace between the voters of each party and their traditional spokesmen. The natural resistance of the politicians to a candidacy emerging from among their permanent critics and in some cases from their

unsuccessful rivals, suddenly polarized as support of my candidacy without my seeking it. It was an elementary phenomenon of self-defense against the division between the regional leaders and the media, which says it speaks for a national country and indiscriminately condemns regional leaders who do not follow their line but who have served the cause of our convictions for 30, 20 or 10 years.

My name emerged, not because I performed any type of maneuvers or because I was a "hidden" candidate, in the dark, crouching, awaiting the moment to jump into the arena. Paradoxically, not 6 months after I left the presidency, at a banquet for 250 people in Cucuta, the possibility of my candidacy, which I declined, was mentioned for the first time. My name has been mentioned, despite my constant refusals, in all surveys for three years now, as a possible candidate against official candidates and obviously with highly unfavorable numbers compared to those who had already made a decision to be candidates, primarily Dr Barco, who some considered the favorite of the National Liberal Leadership. When the regional conventions met last year, I learned at the last moment about the intention of proclaiming my name at the Valle de Cauca Convention, the department which casts the most Liberal votes in the country, and in the late hours of the morning I had to seek those involved in that objective to dissuade them from that endeavor. The same thing was about to happen in several departments of the coast. That situation changed radically some weeks ago when I was invited to clarify positions and the interviewer himself declared that the manner in which I focused on the problem of my refusal was not satisfactory. Unfortunately, I am accustomed to writing my political documents personally despite being fully aware of my rhetorical shortcomings.

In Mexico, the candidate selected in a conclave of the president in office and the former presidents who are members of the government party, is called "hidden." Truly a great effort of imagination and confusion is needed to describe the name of whoever arises from the hinterlands against the candidate of the press and the former presidents, who has been kept in the show window for more than a year as if he were an official candidate, as "hidden."

I say all this to reaffirm to the members of the Central Political Committee, as I have already done privately to some of you, that I have no advice to give you with respect to the recent threats by Dr Virgilio Barco and his friends, nor am I thinking of participating in the Central Political Committee, as I have been doing since the session in which I informed you of your duties as a provisional leadership of the party, nor do I aspire to preside over the National Convention of Medellin if the party bylaws could grant me such an opportunity, rather I intend to leave it in the hands of the former presidents who attend, beginning with Alberto Lleras. It is all the same to me, as long as it contributes to unity, whether the vote is secret or public, whether there are public and private sessions, as I proposed in view of the disintegration of the leadership; whether a joint committee is created for the distribution of ballots; whether the convention is postponed or advanced; whether a popular plebescite be held for the selection of the candidate, and so forth. I would complain if after such a great effort to be, if not united at least gathered, in the Medellin Convention, certain minority sectors would abstain from attending using the tactic of conditioned threat, which so much harm has been causing Liberalism and therefore to the good nature of the Colombians.

When responsibilities on the various behaviors during these weeks are established, it will be seen how the tactics for causing a crisis and the stories on what has happened are not always in keeping with the truth. The press is trying, after the fact, to identify the reasons for the withdrawals of former Presidents Lleras from the National Leadership and it will be necessary to begin by establishing that Dr Carlos Lleras explained that his withdrawal was caused because of differences with the government after the appointment of the last cabinet, when he said that he was recovering his freedom to criticize and he used my observations of a few months back. Doctor Alberto Lleras relates his withdrawal to my reply as to my nomination as a candidate, which he wanted to know about before those who have the authority to offer it to me. The editorial writer of EL TIEMPO who says both situations were the same in order to discredit the Political Central Committee acts in bad faith or is poorly informed.

On the other hand, it should be clear that not being a part of the confrontation between the political class and its critics, I would refrain from lending my name, which is only an accident, for primaries in which the forces of former presidents Lleras and the newspapers who follow their orientations are going to test their strength against the provincial leaders. By doing this I am only accepting the opinions of Dr Carlos Lleras Restrepo, who rightfully believes that local controversies rather than national candidacies are decided in the elections for Congress, assemblies and councils. I have nothing to do with the testing of strength between the press, which says it represents a silent majority, and the activists of the party who in an abstentionist country are the people who with resources and constant deployments have maintained the hierarchies of the party during these years. If the latter win, and together they demonstrate that they are the real Liberal Party as I believe they are, they can think of my name or that of many other fellow party members of the political class who have shown ability and honesty in the handling of the state without resorting to the trite expedient of presenting themselves as pure and unsullied to their colleagues. If the Barco movement wins, I will accept its victory without resentment or bitterness. Winning and losing are part of democracy. The rules of the game were not meant so that those who propose them always win. In no way can my position be called intransigent when the only thing I refuse to accept is that some proven majorities abdicate in favor of some minorities which call themselves the spokesmen for some silent majorities.

In summary, three situations may present themselves and perhaps others which I cannot perceive. None of them will make me falter in my purpose of accomplishing the unity of the party.

a. Dr Virgilio Barco obtains a majority at the Medellin Convention. I accept the decision of the majority and support him without reservations of the Chirac type, who left his followers free to oppose the winning candidate.

b. The convention chooses primary elections in March next year on the occasion of the congressional elections and I observe from the sidelines to see if it is true, as it is said, that the Liberal majorities have the name of Dr Barco as a watchword and are in a position to smother the political class under an avalanche of votes. If this happens, Dr Barco will be my candidate also. However, if the

regional leaders with renewed mandates show they manage the voters, since they would have the decisive forces, they could elect the candidate they want at that moment in keeping with their best judgement.

Obviously, if this procedure is adopted, the convention would appoint a Liberal Leadership with representatives of all factions so that it could come to an agreement with the government and the Conservative Party. My name would be excluded from that leadership.

c. In the case the Barco Movement does not attend the Medellin Convention, a similar situation could present itself in the sense that the definition of the political power between the two forces which are competing for it would be postponed until the elections next year and in which my name, as I have said, is an accident which allows the press to make certain charges against me when I am not in agreement with it and to load me with praise when I appear on the outside to be a hard worker for its objectives.

It was my intention, as I declared in Villavicencio after I called for several regional conventions, that a broad debate be initiated on the subject of reelection before the Medellin Convention. I believe it would not be too late to do so in one of the private meetings of the convention if it is attended by the sectors who use such a pretext against the name of one of the candidates. My presence in the respective debates or my absence from the convention itself, if that is what is required for the success of the meeting, I leave to your will and to the commitments of the Barco movement. That is the reason why up to now I have not accepted any social honors or any Liberal demonstration before the convention without first having established the day of my presence in Medellin.

I would only ask the press that in an act of mental honesty it moderate the language of its zealous reporters on an alleged position of mine and moral duplicity in the 1973 campaign. I challenge any Colombian to show that I made use of the argument of nonreelection against the hopes of Dr Carlos Lleras Restrepo when we competed for the Liberal candidacy. My subject was that of prolonging the National Front, proposed by Dr Carlos Lleras in a letter to his wife, letter which became known as the "Brussels Letter." I could not very well, as the son of the only former president reelected in this century, flaunt such a banner against my opponent. The one who initiated the campaign against nonreelection was Dr Turbay when I was not participating in the struggle because I was in office as president of the republic. I proposed that reelection be banned on the basis of my own case and national opinion was against an initiative that at the time was not aimed against anyone but only against myself.

Regardless of how the supporters of Dr Augusto Espinosa Valderramas learned of the preference of former presidents Lleras for Drs Virgilio Barco and Otto Morales Benitez and that as of that time my name was mentioned by some legislators, demonstrating once more that there was no "hidden" candidate, it was proposed that the authority of the National Liberal Leadership, which consisted of the former president, be restricted. By an overwhelming majority the term "without conditions or restrictions" was used in the substitute proposition, as is recorded in the respective minutes and as is remembered by those who attended the meeting.

I trust that despite the length of my communication it is made clear in this final instance that just as it has been during all this process, which culminates with the Medellin Convention, my goal has not been my presidential candidacy but the delivery to those who will succeed us of a strong party, united despite its natural differences, once the task entrusted to us by the convention held in Bogota in 1980 is completed.

Your friend and fellow party member Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, Isla Arena,
Archipelago of the Islas del Rosario, 7 September 1981.

8908

CSO: 3010/19

GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 1 Sep 81 p 2A

[Text] Effective today, the MOPT [Ministry of Public Works and Transportation], will intervene in all bus services in the metropolitan area. This was announced yesterday in a press conference held by the minister of public works and transportation, the engineer Mario Fernandez Ortiz.

Today LA GACETA will publish this executive decree establishing that this administrative action will be applied "depending on the seriousness of the firms' record of noncompliance" with the laws and regulations covering mass transport.

In some cases the MOPT will act only as an inspector, in order to determine that the state subsidies designed to maintain buses and equipment are being used properly.

In others the intervention "will have to be extended to cover the administration and operation of the equipment" because of the advanced stage of deterioration of the services provided by these companies. There may be five of these firms, said Mr Fernandez, adding that the routes these companies operate will be announced today.

The purpose of this step, according to the decree, is "to help, by providing state support, in finding solutions for the serious problems affecting public transportation services, especially in the maintenance and operation of equipment." "This is not a state takeover of transportation," said Mr Fernandez, who explained that this decree does not change the present mass transportation model, as the purchase of equipment and other actions which are included in the MOPT's plan to improve services will be postponed until the bill is studied by the legislative assembly.

The congress recently passed a temporary provision in Law 6588 which regulates the activities of RECOPE [Costa Rican Oil Refinery] establishing that the MOPT must submit before 13 September a bill entitled "plan to improve public transportation services."

The resolution is based on a series of considerations contained in a seven-page document which Mr Fernandez distributed to the press yesterday. This document mentions a number of laws and articles of the constitution which grant to the state and the MOPT the exclusive authority to provide this public service or to exercise it through intermediaries, on the condition that certain standards of efficiency, control, and quality are complied with.

In the opinion of the minister, however, these standards have been violated as, "since the present model of transportation services has been in operation, there have been innumerable transgressions of the law and service has become so poor that it has been unbearable for users of mass transport services."

Although the MOPT will formally act as "intervenor," it will delegate these functions to a person whose name was not released. The decision will be made known to the owners of the bus companies today, said Mr Fernandez, adding that the decree gives a period of 24 hours so that they can determine the level of intervention to be applied in each of the bus concessions.

He also reported that yesterday he met with representatives of the National Chamber of Transport, and with another group of bus company representatives. They met yesterday evening in the headquarters of the Chamber in order to analyze the proposals and resolution of the ministry.

The bus companies, said Mr Fernandez, will maintain their rights to operate their routes for the time being, and will receive their profits, after demonstrating that they are investing the money needed for maintaining buses and other items.

7679
CSO: 3010/1833

ICE CONTRACTS ADVISORS TO DESIGN LA CUEVA DAM

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 31 Aug 81 p 6A

[Text] The ICE [Costa Rican Electricity Institute] has hired the services of the Wahler Associates and Bel Engineering, S.A. to advise them on the design of the La Cueva dam which is to be built as part of the Arenal-Tempisque irrigation project.

The contract stipulates that the agreement will last for 1 year, and the cost will be approximately \$170,000.

In this project the ICg will participate only in the design, since the construction is to be handled by the SNE [National Electricity Service].

The dam will rise above the waters of Tempisque and will be located 15 kilometers northeast of Liberia; it will have a reservoir with a capacity of 80 million cubic meters. From there water will be channeled via the La Cueva canal which will be 40 kilometers long and will provide a flow of 15 cubic meters per second, giving water to an area of 15,000 hectares.

The Arenal-Tempisque irrigation plan came about as a result of the Arenal project, which will release a large volume of water in the dry Pacific coast region of Guanacaste; this will in turn irrigate a territory of approximately 125,000 hectares in the districts of Abangares, Canas, Bagaces, Liberia, Carrillo, and will probably reach Santa Cruz.

The ICE specialists said that the institution has already built the Magdalena dam, considered the center of the project. From this dam will be built two large canals, one to the south, 50 kilometers long, and the other to the west, 100 kilometers in length. The first will irrigate 30,000 hectares, and the second, 40,000 hectares.

Present during the signing of the contract were: Kenneth V. Roda from Wahler Associates, Ricardo Echandi from Bel Engineering, the engineer Teofilo de la Torre, deputy manager of energy development, the engineer Jorge Figuls, head of the engineering division of ICE, and the engineer Carlos Obregon, head of the department of administration, contracts, and design of ICE.

7679

CSO: 3010/1833

NUMBER OF FARMERS IN COUNTRY DECLINES RAPIDLY

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 15 Aug 81 p 2A

[Article by Ricardo Quiros Saenz]

[Text] In 7 years, the number of farmers has declined by 12 percent as a result of "urbanization and the rise of other fields of activity," reported a study conducted by the OPIPLAN [National Planning Office].

The analysis shows that "Costa Rica, essentially an agricultural nation, has been changing," because of the rise of industry, commerce, transport, and construction.

The study done by the population department of OPIPLAN stresses that "over a period of time, the farmlands allocated for permanent crops and pasturage could decline, thus considerably reducing the agricultural contribution to the PIB [Gross Domestic Product].

Because of this situation, the report suggests that a larger proportion of the Costa Rican people be encouraged to work in farming, especially those persons now engaged in nonproductive and marginally productive activities "with minimum advantages for themselves and for society in general."

The report notes that sufficient incentives will have to be provided to keep the rural population from emigrating to the cities, "by creating in rural areas new agricultural and livestock-related jobs," by giving the peasants "their own lands, by using irrigation to make land and pasturage productive during the dry season, and by applying the technology needed to increase food production."

The report states that in order to improve the diet of the Costa Rican people, over the next decades the nation's agricultural productivity should be increased so that it can supply food at a rate equal to or above the population growth rate.

Population

On the subject of population growth, the OFIPLAN report says that under the previous government this problem was not treated properly, and was too much affected by external policy considerations, by indifference, and by lack of definite policies.

"It was characterized by an absence of definite policies, thus creating a 'laissez-faire' attitude, and leaving it up to private organizations, international financial organizations, and other governments to create a de facto definition of a Costa Rican population policy. This policy was designed to decrease the birth rate, despite the fact that no demographic study had been done indicating an ideal population size and its placement in space."

According to the OFIPLAN report, "an estimate of the external funds coming into Costa Rica to aid these family planning programs comes to \$13 million. This is 113 million colons for the 1974-1979 period. The purpose of these funds--as it was in other developing countries--was to decrease population growth and to avoid the hunger and poverty that would supposedly afflict these countries."

"In Costa Rica," the report continues, "these funds, if used in accordance with our national interests and given to state institutions, could have provided great support for health care, and could have enabled us to make better plans for demographic needs in areas such as jobs, housing, education, etc."

"Nonetheless, despite the achievements made in the field of health, these funds were restricted basically to one aspect of population policy, and were a marginal factor in an area of such vital importance to the nation's development."

In the judgment of OFIPLAN, the impact of all these funds has become apparent in the acceleration of the decline in birth rates. Along with some other phenomena, this has led to the recent demographic trends which have been recorded.

7679

CSO: 3010/1833

BRIEFS

CARAZO'S POLICY PROTESTED--The Chamber of Commerce has requested an explanation from the president, Rodrigo Carazo, about the recent visit to Costa Rica by the ambassador from North Korea accredited to Managua. They told the president that the government should reveal the policy that will be followed during the course of the next 9 months "with regard to governments that do not respect the sovereignty and free determination of the Costa Rican people and which, in an underhanded way, meddle in our affairs." Is this visit the prelude to the opening of an embassy from the communist nation of North Korea in Costa Rica, asked the businessmen. They told the president that the Costa Rican people are not prepared to accept any imposition of a system unlike the one created by their ancestors. [Text] [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 28 Aug 81 p 8A] 7679

CSO: 3010/1833

BRIEFS

INCREASE IN SUGARCANE CULTIVATION--Sugarcane cultivation showed an increase this year compared with last year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cattle [MAG]. It is estimated that for the 1981-1982 period there will be a recovery in the harvest with the surface cleared for grinding increasing from 38,000 manzanas [1 manzana = 1.7 acres] in the 1980-1981 period to 42,330 manzanas in the 1981-1982 period. MAG points out that, considering the implementation of the development policies being carried on at the national level, it is also contemplated to incorporate 20,000 manzanas between the replacement of stalks and newly cultivated areas to reach a total cultivated area of about 53,000 manzanas. According to MAG's forecasts, experts of that organization believe that the sugar refineries will have enough raw material to satisfy domestic sugar demand and have a surplus for export. Since sugarcane plays a major role in our country in the Gross National Product in the agricultural and cattle-raising sector, the importance of that crop is all the more pronounced not only as a source of foreign exchange but also as an activity which generates jobs for the rural population and as a provider of raw materials for many industries as well as being an integral part of the diet of our citizenry. MAG adds that within the Three-Year Agricultural and Livestock Development Plan for 1981-1983 there are specific plans for increasing the sugarcane crop. [Text] [San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 20 Aug 81 p 2] 8568

CSO: 3010/1862

PRESIDENT CLAIMS BELIZE STILL PART OF NATIONAL TERRITORY

Relations With Britain

Guatemala PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Sep 81 p 6

[Text] "As long as no understanding has been reached on Belize, we shall continue to consider it a part of Guatemala," Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia, president of the republic, declared emphatically yesterday.

"The problem is being solved, since the basic agreements have been signed. If the British had accepted them, we would not be in the present situation, but if they themselves reject the proposals, the situation will continue as it has to date, since the constitution states that Belize is part of Guatemala.

"We have no relations with the Belizean people," he indicated, "even those who live in the Toledo district--it is more than 35 years since they left the Alta Verapaz region, and their children were born in Belize; that is, they are Belizeans. Even if some of them were born in Alta Verapaz or in some department of Guatemala, after such a long time they no longer think of returning.

"The Guatemalan consul in Belmopan--I do not know if he is already in Guatemala--" he said, "has already been told to set his affairs in order and return home.

"British possessions will not be impounded, because we are not cavemen who want to grab things that do not belong to us.

"With regard to Belizeans living in Guatemala," he said, "if they are just in transit they will have to leave. This will be arranged by immigration authorities in the usual manner. Belizean students will also have to leave Guatemala; they will have to go home.

"The withdrawal of the consuls means the breaking of consular relations; trade relations will no longer be carried on by a Guatemalan consul there. There are officials of other embassies who will take charge of Guatemalan affairs in Great Britain.

"Should talks between the two nations be resumed, these rules could be rescinded, provided that the bases of understanding are complied with. The British are not doing so, and that is why we are in this situation.

"Certainly Guatemala has no reason to invade Belize, as I have said repeatedly, but it is logical that it should be vigilant of its borders. It will always have its immigration and police officials."

Concerning any petition Guatemala might make to the United Nations in the Belize case, the chief executive said that there has not yet been any discussion of this because we are holding talks with the British Government. Nor have we come to a decision as to who will take charge of Guatemalan affairs in Belize.

Congress Supports Decisions

Guatemala PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Sep 81 p 6

[Excerpt] The congress of the republic has given its total support to the government in the measures taken yesterday with regard to Belize, that is, the breaking of consular relations with Great Britain and Belize.

That support is contained in a resolution approved unanimously by all deputies present and introduced by the chairman of the foreign relations committee, deputy Jose Trinidad Ucles, of the PID [Democratic Institutional Party] and supported by all the representatives of the other parties.

The resolution in question also expresses the congress's total support of any measures, statement or regulation which may be adopted by the president of the republic regarding the unilateral declaration of independence of the Guatemalan territory of Belize, since it is the subject of a still-unresolved territorial dispute with Great Britain.

Finally, it expresses on behalf of the people's representatives the need to adopt adequate measures to support the Guatemalan position before international agencies and such measures as may be adopted in the future by the president of the republic in exercise of powers expressly conferred upon him by the constitution.

Recommendation

The congress issued another resolution yesterday, recommending that the parliaments of Latin America adopt suitable measures to support the "Declaration of the Nine Countries" honoring the maintenance of freedom of the peoples and the strengthening of the principle of self-determination regardless of the political line they may support.

This declaration of the nine was issued by several Latin American countries in response to the joint Mexican-French statement and censuring those two countries for recognizing the Salvadoran guerrillas.

The resolution was introduced by deputies Jose Trinidad Ucles, Oscar Rivas, Raul Ovando Santiago, Oscar Vega, Ruben Ayala and other members of the PID.

8735

CSO: 3010/1854

GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON INDEPENDENCE OF BELIZE

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Sep 81 pp 2, 80

[Article: "Guatemala Maintains Its Rights Over Belize"]

[Text] "The proclamation of the independence of Belize is still another example of a British colonial farce, an attempt by Great Britain to avoid its responsibilities, leaving behind a disagreeable memory," according to a governmental communique that was issued yesterday in connection with the so-called independence of the territory of Belize.

The government document states:

"That the constitution of the republic clearly and categorically indicates that Belize is part of the territory of Guatemala, and the unilateral proclamation of its independence in no way changes our position, nor lessens our rights over this portion of our fatherland that was usurped by Great Britain many years ago.

The proclamation of the independence of Belize is another example of a British colonial farce, an attempt by Great Britain to shirk its responsibilities, leaving behind a disagreeable memory, and a Belizean state that leans upon British military strength. In this manner, and under the hypocrisy of apparent respect for the right of the self-determination of nations, Great Britain maintains its neocolonial presence on the American continent.

In observance of the constitution of the republic, that ordains that the Executive must exert all possible effort to resolve the situation of Belize in accordance with national interests, the Guatemalan Government has been consistent with the way it is trying to resolve this problem, and judges that the best way to protect the interests of the fatherland is to preserve peace and to conduct itself in accordance with the standards and principles of International Law.

The process of direct negotiations with Great Britain culminated with the signing of the so-called Bases of Understanding. As the public knows, Great Britain tried to undermine a clear agreement. The government of the republic rejected this unworthy action, because of the Bases of Understanding have not yet been executed or fulfilled.

In the face of Great Britain's announcement regarding the unilateral granting of independence to Belize on 21 September, the government of the republic decided to end consular relations with Great Britain. It ordered the closing of Guatemalan

consulates in Belize, revoked the recognition of the British consul in Guatemala, and decided to close British consulates in the republic. It ordered the borders that have been garrisoned by British military forces to be closed. It banned all air or maritime traffic between Guatemala and Belize, and established an absolute time limit for the departure of British consular officials and employees and of Belizean students who are recipients of government scholarships.

By means of this farce, Great Britain is trying to avoid its responsibility with respect to the spoliation of Guatemala, by favoring a state that is weak in every way, and pretends that the latter is the one that is seeking just demands from Guatemala.

Guatemala will continue to firmly fight for its claim to this part of its territory through all the peaceful means that international laws and practices place at its disposal.

Guatemala has the best of intentions with respect to the people of Belize, whom it regards as a brotherly people, and therefore deplores that it is being cheated by being led down the wrong path which, let us hope, will not result in even greater harm to it.

The government repeats its solemn and patriotic commitment not to tolerate anything that might tend to violate the rights of the Guatemalan people, and will continue to protect all national interests.

The government formally declares Guatemala's rights to that territory and does not recognize the so-called borders with that territory. It confirms its decision not to invade Belize but, in exercising its right of legitimate defense, will adopt and implement any action that it deems appropriate to repel any aggression which under the false pretext of defending Belize's independence might endanger the tranquillity, peace, and security of the Guatemalan people.

Finally, the government of the republic is certain that our indisputable rights and our trust in God will lead us to a just solution, which is the desire of all the people of Guatemala.

Guatemala, 20 September 1981"

8255
CSO: 3010/26

ARCHILA: BELIZE FLIRTING WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 23 Sep 81 pp 1, 2

[Text] "If Belize continues to flirt with the socialist countries, it will tilt the scale, and will endanger the Latin American countries, and obviously its neighbors, the Central American nations, replied Maj Rolando Archila, assistant secretary for the Public Relations of the Presidency.

The official was interviewed regarding all kinds of assistance from Cuba. "This was to be expected, inasmuch as the contacts that Price initiated with the socialist sphere were heading in this direction. And let us not forget that Cuba for years has tried to meddle in the internal affairs of these countries and has declared that it is the military support of subversion," said the official.

Then he mentioned the future establishment of a Soviet embassy in Belmopan. "Everyone knows that those diplomatic missions are the vanguards of subversive activities in the world. They make use of the freedom granted by democracy for their own political ends, with the connivance of 'useful fools,' like Price," said Major Archila.

The Press

On another plane, the assistant secretary for the Public Relations of the Presidency, in answer to a question, referred to the attitude of the Guatemalan press--in general terms--regarding the divesting of a fifth of our territory through the unilateral independence granted by Great Britain to Belize.

"For all Guatemalans, 21 September was a sad day. It was a day we will never be able to forget, because it marks the historic milestone in which the colonial power of Great Britain granted independence to a territory that is lawfully Guatemalan. It ignored our unquestionable rights and our struggle for possession of that small part of our native land.

What is even more painful--we have been ignored in the face of the present trend that advocates self-determination for nations, without considering circumstances that generated the problem of Belize which, as everyone knows," added the official, "fell under British domination after the first act of piracy and later because Great Britain did not live up to the agreements made with Guatemala in 1856, which had the courage to negotiate with a great power, even though it was a weak country, but one that was strong in civic valor when it came to protecting its rights."

"All of that patriotic sentiment," he added, "was reflected in an admirable manner through the social means of communication, which is worthy of praise and this attitude."

Dr Recinos

With respect to the appeal made by the family of Dr Recinos--having to do with the petition of the kidnapped professional, himself--that various persons supposedly imprisoned in two departments be set free, Major Archila recalled that recently President Lucas Garcia had told newsmen that these persons are not being held by the authorities.

Likewise, he stressed that the governor had already stressed the government's position of not dealing with subversive factions, "nasmich as this endangers the operation of governmental insititutions."

However, he lamented the situation of the Minister of Health, and said that it was to be hoped that those who seized him will not harm him, keeping in mind that he is an honest official, a man of great social standing, whose family is suffering the consequences of an action that is obviously difficult, totalitarian, and incompatible with the principles of the observance of human rights.

8255

CSO: 3010/26

HEAVY FLOODS IN PETEN; EMERGENCY MEASURES TAKEN

Guatemala PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Aug 81 p 6

[Text] "The flooding in Peten has been serious, but we are prepared to limit the damage done by this phenomenon," Col Jorge Mario Reyes Porras said yesterday, commenting on the rising waters of Lake Peten Itza.

Three years ago the waters of the Chaltuna began to rise to an abnormal level. Several homes have been swallowed up by the floodwaters, public buildings have been damaged, and nobody can predict what will happen tomorrow.

Natives of the island of Flores say that the problem is cyclic. Some say it occurs every 20 years; others say every 3 decades. The fact is, nobody agrees, and the waters continue to rise unchecked.

Government Concerned

The head of FYDEP [National Agency for the Economic Promotion and Development of El Peten], in an interview with PRENSA LIBRE, said that although natural phenomena are practically uncontrollable, President Lucas Garcia has demonstrated his concern in the matter and has heeded the call for help of the people of Peten. Therefore FYDEP has several times repaired the bridge connecting Ciudad Flores with San Benito, in view of the fact that this road is used by thousands of children and youth who attend school.

"I have seen fathers cry when their houses were swallowed up by the flood. The Petenero loves his land, and it grieves him to lose the home where his own parents lived.

"But the current situation is harsh and severe; something must be done to halt the effects of this disaster. The agency has shored up the coastline of Ciudad Flores, Santa Elena, San Benito, El Remate, San Jose and San Andres."

The promises made by President Lucas Garcia less than a year ago are being kept. Homeless families are being provided with low-cost housing with many facilities.

"First, 45 wooden houses were constructed. Now the second phase of the Itzatenango settlement is under way, but these houses will be built of block and will have all services, including drinking water.

"On the other hand, plans are ready for the drainage project and the improvement of water sources, to decontaminate Lake Peten Itza and avoid epidemics.

"The government," he concluded, "is doing everything humanly possible to limit the effects of the flood. It is working in good faith, and we trust in God that Peten Itza, which has already caused so much damage, will stop rising."

8735

CSO: 3010/1867

GOVERNMENT GIVES LAND TO PEASANTS IN JALAPA

Guatemala DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 21 Aug 81 p 3

[Text] In an outpouring of enthusiasm unprecedented in the agrarian history of Guatemala, 20,888 peasants in the community of Santa Maria Xalapan, in the Department of Jalapa, received last Friday morning from the hands of Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia, president of the republic, the documents naming them legitimate owners of 286 caballerias [106 acres approximately] of fertile land which has been in litigation for 227 years.

The Ceremony

After the entrance into the national pavilion and the singing of the national anthem, Isaac Rolando Paiz, departmental governor, gave a welcoming speech on behalf of the community.

Then agricultural expert Braulio Villatoro, first vice president of INTA [National Agrarian Transformation Institute], spoke, referring to the problem of Xalapan and to its happy solution by the government of the republic.

Historical Review

Luis Escobar, president of the National Agrarian Transformation Institute, reviewed the Santa Maria Xalapan problem and its solution by General Lucas Garcia's administration to the benefit of 20,000 persons, thus ending the conflicts which have plagued the region continuously.

The next speaker was Ruben Castellanos, second vice president of INTA, who on concluding his speech gave President Lucas Garcia a copy of the Royal Seal granted by King Ferdinand of Castile.

Kept His Word

Prior to the delivery of the document, which was duly registered in the real estate records, the president of the republic gave a brief history of how he discovered the problem, an explanation of the conflict, which he in turn had received from the well-remembered journalist, Clemente Marroquin Rojas, and finally, the work carried out by the National Agrarian Transformation Institute to solve the conflict.

The promise to solve the problem for you has been kept, the governor said, and this document revalidates the title which was given you more than 200 years ago.

The residents who have received land are from El Durazno, Sanyuyo, La Paz, Tatasire, El Paraiso, Sashico, Palo Verde, El Carrizal, Los Izotes, Hierbabuena, La Fuente and El Rodeo.

Candelario Gonzalez Elias, president of the community of Santa Maria Xalapan, spoke in conclusion, thanking General Lucas Garcia for his administration's manifest interest in solving the conflict definitively.

Also present, in addition to the officials already mentioned, were newsman Carlos Toledo Vielmann, the president's secretary of public relations; Maj Rolando Archila Marroquin, assistant secretary of the same agency; Gen Mario Lopez, commander of the Jutiapa military base; Msgr Angel Garcia Arauz, bishop of the Jalapa diocese, and other high-ranking national and municipal government officials and special guests.

8735

CSO: 3010/1854

BRIEFS

BELIZEANS LEAVE, BORDER CLOSED--Melchor de Mencos, Peten--"All Belizeans who used to reside in Guatemala have left Guatemala. With the closing of the border, we are not allowing even a needle to get through," said Juan Hernandez, migration chief of this city." He said that the government's orders are being carried out literally. Only Belizeans who are married to Guatemalans are permitted to remain, but they must keep their papers in order. He added that until yesterday no Peten family residing in Belize had been expelled, but it was known that they were the object of aggression from the black police. He also indicated that foreign tourists were also barred from crossing on that side. "We will be radical and strict. We will not allow Belizeans to transit," he concluded. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Sep 81 p 4] 8255

INACOP LITERACY PROGRAM GOALS--About 200,000 Guatemalans will be taught to read and write during the remainder of this year by the National Institute of Cooperatives (INACOP) and by CONACO, the coordinator of operation, according to Col Fernando Castillo Ramirez, head of the cooperative organization in Guatemala. He said that many cooperatives in various sections of the country have described the national literacy campaign as sacred. "For that reason," he said, "the leaders of these groups have devoted themselves entirely to teaching not only their relatives, but their neighbors and other communities scattered throughout the most remote regions of the country. INACOP and CONACO have joined efforts to train many young people, who are already working in the literacy campaign. These teachers will, in turn, train the cooperative leaders, as well as many of the peasants, so that these people will also be able to join in the work of teaching in the future. Of course there will be constant supervision, so that the goal may be achieved. We are sure," Castillo Ramirez concluded, "that by the end of this year, INACOP and CONACO will have taught no fewer than 200,000 of our countrymen to read and write." [Text] [Guatemala PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Aug 81 p 12] 8735

CSO: 3010/1854

BRIEFS

MARXIST FACTORY INFILTRATION--Businessmen from the north coast will meet soon in order to work together to avoid communist infiltration in their businesses. They will carefully investigate all agitators in order to keep them from infiltrating their businesses in order to spread disorder and anarchy. The sources reporting this to LA PRENSA pointed out that the communists are only one group of irresponsible people who can be easily identified. What has happened is that businesses have not worked together to obtain reliable information about all those persons who want to infiltrate their businesses for ideological reasons. According to these sources, it will be easy to identify these people, because although there are very few marxist agitators, they are bold and have the evil talent of being able to stir up the workers for their own purposes, by means of promises which in the end they do not fulfill. The list of marxists will be made available to all the businessmen in order to keep them from infiltrating among their personnel. This has happened a number of times in the past because of lack of information about these people. [Text] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Sep 81 p 4] 7679

CSO: 3010/1833

'LA PRENSA' DEFENDS ITSELF AGAINST MEXICAN REPORTER'S ACCUSATIONS

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Aug 81 pp 1, 14

[Article refuting accusations made against LA PRENSA's reporting of Gutierrez de Esparza interview on New Delhi foreign ministers meeting. Paragraph numbering as published.]

[Text] We want to respond to an article published by END [El Nuevo Diario] in which Luis Gutierrez de Esparza wants to do us harm. We shall adhere strictly to the truth without considering the insults that newspaper customarily hurls at us.

[Gutierrez] Last February while in New Delhi as special envoy of a Mexican magazine to cover the meeting of foreign ministers of nonaligned countries, I interviewed Nicaragua's Foreign Affairs Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Catholic priest and exemplary revolutionary.

[LA PRENSA] D'Escoto asserted that he had not given that interview, as we shall see in the reproduction of his defense which we are herewith publishing. According to Gutierrez de Esparza's statement, it was LA PRENSA which told the truth and not D'Escoto.

[Gutierrez] Due to certain technical problems--batteries almost exhausted and insufficient tape--it was not possible to record the entire interview; part of it was recorded, but almost inaudible; and another was expressed in a few notes. Various factors prevented the interview from being published at that time; and it finally appeared on the first page of EL PERIODICO on 15 August.

[LA PRENSA] On 22 August LA PRENSA called attention to the existence of EL PERIODICO, to the fact that it had published the interview on 15 August. It was D'Escoto who denied the existence of EL PERIODICO and any such interview. We shall both begin at zero, the truth being on our side.

[Gutierrez] Faithful to the essence of Father D'Escoto's statements, I could not reconstruct some of his comments textually.

[LA PRENSA] LA PRENSA has never said that he published anything said verbatim by D'Escoto but, rather, statements attributed to him by EFE [Spanish Press Agency] which appeared in EL PERIODICO. Thus, we are promising our readers to publish the entire interview as it appeared in EL PERIODICO so that the people can judge the essence of D'Escoto's statements.

4. [Gutierrez] (Referring to the publication of the cable by LA PRENSA): This information was sent throughout the world by two international agencies, one of them being the EFE, to which this newspaper is subscribed, and the other, LA PRENSA of Managua, which reproduced it, embellishing it with its traditional manipulating and yellow journalistic style.

[LA PRENSA] LA PRENSA limited itself to publishing the cable as received from the EFE, reproducing it in the manner in which it had been presented by EL DIARIO DE LAS AMERICAS. We did this to inform our people that the news had spread throughout the world and that three persons had been accused who, consequently, had the right to defend themselves against those accusations.

There, LA PRENSA did not "embellish, neither did it employ yellow journalism, nor did it manipulate anything."

5. [Gutierrez] In view of the approach taken by the agencies--partial reporting, out of context and, being oversimplified, not very faithful to the version which appeared in EL PERIODICO."

[LA PRENSA] In the preceding paragraph, the international news agencies being accused and condemned by Gutierrez are the EFE and the UPI. In any case, they would be the ones which oversimplified and gave a NOT VERY FAITHFUL version.

Moreover, the decree to close LA PRENSA down for 3 days says: "For having published a TOTALLY FALSE interview."

6. [Gutierrez] In accordance with its current laws, the Nicaraguan Government notified LA PRENSA about the impropriety of printing that information."

[LA PRENSA] The Nicaraguan Government did not speak to us of the IMPROPRIETY of printing the interview; rather, it spoke to us of its total lack of truth; therefore, what we are investigating is not whether it was improper to publish the interview but whether it even existed; that is the crux of the matter.

In continuing, we are copying the most important paragraphs of the closure decree, so that our public will know the TRUTH.

We are also showing what D'Escoto said about the cable.

"Communications Media Directorate. Managua, 1100 hours, 19 August 1981.

Whereas:

1. In edition No 16,063 of Tuesday, 18 August 1981, the newspaper, LA PRENSA, with great ostentatious publicity reproduces on its first page an article entitled: 'Archbishop Obando of Managua Is the Principal Force Behind the Counterrevolution: D'Escoto'; the same as a series of interviews on that subject.

2. It is absolutely false that Foreign Minister D'Escoto has made statements in accordance with the above article.

3. The preceding was brought in due time to the attention of Jaime Chamorro, General Manager of LA PRENSA, by a member of the Government Junta for National Reconstruction, as acknowledged in that newspaper; the same as in the case of the statements which the foreign minister himself granted it.

4. It is a serious matter to publish false news in open defiance of the Communications Media Law after government sources at the highest level had been consulted.

5. Despite the fact that LA PRENSA knew perfectly well that Foreign Minister D'Escoto had never made the statements contained in the article in question, it not only prints the article but also publishes interviews held with Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo, Mrs Violeta Barrios widow of Chamorro and Alfonso Robelo in which it not only fails to advise them that the contents of the article are false but also leaves the impression that the interviewer expressly considers them as fact; it thus fails to abide by the ethics of good journalism not only with regard to the public but also with the persons interviewed.

Director of Communications Media

D'Escoto's Statement

This morning LA PRENSA held an interview with Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to obtain information about the statements attributed to him by the newspaper, EL PERIODICO, supposedly published in Mexico.

According to the foreign minister's assertions, he did not make those statements. He does not know a newspaper of that name and is astonished to learn that his statements appeared in Mexico when he gave only television interviews and a speech before the president.

The foreign minister declared that he does not share any of the ideas expressed in those statements, that he has never spoken anywhere in that manner, that the language used does not correspond with what he uses and that he therefore strongly denies everything stated by the newspaper, EL PERIODICO.

The foreign minister told us that he will send a protest to the editors of that publication through the Nicaraguan Ambassador in Mexico inasmuch as he does not even know if the newspaper exists and that he will do the same with the agencies which supplied the news.

The foreign minister read the cable and then, one by one, denied the statements attributed to him.

D'Escoto deplored the fact that other parties had commented on the cable as though he had made the statements in question and not on the basis that he had not made them.

In this regard, LA PRENSA says it has had the cable since Saturday without publishing it and that on that day "we wanted to contact Foreign Minister D'Escoto but could not do so as he was in Honduras."

After the cable was published in Costa Rica's LA NACION and in the DIARIO DE LAS AMERICAS as well as the preceding comments relative to D'Escoto's statements, those publications made the same comments on the cable as those published herewith by LA PRENSA.

7. [Gutierrez] "The warning, naturally, was not heeded; furthermore, LA PRENSA also interviewed Alfonso Robelo, Violeta Chamorro and Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo, mentioned in the interview; and, without risk, it fired one more shot in its campaign of aggression and destabilization at the service of Nicaragua's far right and imperialism. This is what motivated the sanction of which LA PRENSA's directors are taking advantage to present themselves as paladins and martyrs of freedom of expression."

[LA PRENSA] In the preceding paragraph the Mexican newspaper is openly meddling in Nicaragua's domestic policy and making it clear whose hand is guiding its pen; we do not know if this is through political conviction or through what General Obregon said, that he did not have one general who could hold up under fire.

8. [Gutierrez] LA PRENSA tried every way possible to compromise EL PERIODICO and me personally as a part of its counterrevolutionary operation. Obviously, the answer was negative for two basic reasons: first, I am and always shall be involved in the struggle of the Nicaraguan people and am an admirer of the Sandinist epic. This newspaper, in turn, has declared itself compromised by our people's struggles for liberation. And, moreover, LA PRENSA's type of journalism is the antithesis of ours; its manipulative and sensationalist zeal and its surrender to oligarchy and the interests of imperialism place it in an opposite trench.

What LA PRENSA published regarding the interview with Father D'Escoto is a manipulative provocation. To give expression and acknowledgement to the enemies of the people is one more proof of the abundant generosity of Sandinism; but everything has a limit; and that newspaper goes beyond the limit with alarming frequency."

[LA PRENSA] After Gutierrez de Esparza had promised LA PRENSA by telephone to furnish the tape and give a sworn statement, it now develops that the tape is not valid since it is integral with the Nicaraguan process and since LA PRENSA has a type of journalism which is the antithesis of his. Neither of these two reasons has anything to do with the truth of the matter; rather, they are purely political reasons and irrelevant to what transpired in the interview.

If EFE and UPI have not told the truth, the best way to prove this is to reveal the contents of the recorded tape. However, it does not matter; a copy of the newspaper in which the interview appeared is already in our hands and, through his article, Gutierrez de Esparza, with the aid of the new newspaper, has authenticated it. Very soon the Nicaraguan people will be able to read everything D'Escoto said in New Delhi.

The truth always prevails, and LA PRENSA never lies.

8568

CSO: 3010/1862

CANADIAN MILITARY MEN SAID GRATEFUL FOR OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 28 Aug 81 p 7

[Text] A group of 54 Canadians, who recently succeeded in helping the country, sent BARRICADA a copy of a note directed to our people expressing thanks for "this experience we have been privileged to have in Nicaragua."

The document is a worthy testimonial of the solidarity our revolution has inspired among the Canadian people.

The verbatim text of the note is given below.

First There Were Twenty

A few days after our return from your country, we, 54 members of a Canadian brigade, are using the newspaper to express our thanks to the heroic Nicaraguan people and their organizations and, especially the workers and farmers, for the fraternal and revolutionary welcome we received from your representative organizations or in individual and spontaneous manner during the 6 weeks of our sojourn in the country of Sandino.

The 54 members of our group are workers from different sectors and different provinces who, through their own initiative and expense, formed a group to take part in and develop the solidarity of the Canadian people with that of the Nicaraguan people.

Already in the 3 months of preparation for our trip, we obtained results which surpassed the goals we had set; a few advertisements in the leftist progressive weekly and a few bulletins put out by people's organizations and unions helped us very much as evidenced by the fact that in the beginning we were 20 brigade members and, through the publicity measures, our number tripled; however, there were other volunteers who encountered difficulties which prevented them from coming along.

Discussing the subject with our family members, friends, fellow workers and various organizations, we succeeded in raising about \$12,000 and preparing 200 boxes of clothing, school supplies and medicines. A sizable amount of these donations was delivered to the International Secretariat of the CST [Sandinist Workers Federation] and the remainder to various institutions with which we worked in the departments, in Leon (Public Health Campaign); in Masaya (the CDI [Industrial Development Council]), (the home for the elderly, hospitals, etc.); in El Crucero (CST's national school); and in Managua (intourism, the rehabilitation hospital, etc.).

We have made a general check of these tasks but shall prepare a detailed account of them in Canada.

We are aware and sure that this experience we were privileged to have in Nacaragua is valuable and worthwhile and will provide a better basis on which to develop solidarity between Canada and Nicaragua; we are sure that our exploited classes will always have a feeling of solidarity with the working classes of this new Nicaragua.

We are expressing our gratitude to the workers and farmers who patiently explained to us and taught us the reality of their living conditions and the new reality they are now facing, to the families who affectionately welcomed us in their homes and to the various organizations and institutions which helped us in thousands of ways to carry out our tasks.

Her is our internationalist salute!

Long Live Sandino! The Struggle Continues!

Peoples of Canada and Nicaragua, solaridarity!

8568

CSO: 3010/1862

PRESS REPORTS ON MEETINGS WITH SERVICE

Meetings With Opposition

PY080214 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Oct 81 p 11

[Text] Contrary to expectations, Robert Service, director for southern cone affairs of the U.S. State Department also met with representatives of the opposition which has not been recognized by the Paraguayan Government. He also spoke with Carmen de Lara Castro, chairman of the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights.

The U.S. official held talks with the representatives of the National Accord Coordinating Board: Romulo Perina, Jorge Dario Cristaldo and Perla de Resck (of the Christian Democratic Party); Euclides Acevedo and Oscar Diaz Vellacich (of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party) and Domingo Laino and Juan Manuel Benitez (of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party).

According to Euclides Acevedo, president of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party, Mr Service was basically interested in getting the politicians' opinion about U.S. foreign policy.

He said that Paraguay's future was also discussed along with the most remarkable aspects of the electoral law, its draft amendment and the manner in which this amendment will affect the opposition political parties.

Acevedo also said that during his meeting with the National Accord they discussed the country's economic growth and the prospects of the National Accord. Asked about his opinion of the U.S. official, Acevedo said: "I believe that he is an efficient information-gatherer." As to the envoy's wish to speak with the opposition, Acevedo said that it had probably been prompted by the desire to convey to the U.S. State Department the current political status of the country.

The National Commission for the Defense of Human Rights was represented at the meeting with the U.S. official by its Chairman Carmen de Lara Castro and Jeronimo Irala Burgos.

It was reported that the meeting dealt with subjects related to the status of human rights.

Mr Service also met with representatives of the Paraguayan Workers Confederation (CPT) and with members of the independent news media who spoke "off the record" [given in English] with the U.S. State Department's envoy. Mr Service will also speak with representatives of Itaipu and Yacyreta binational corporations and his return to the United States is scheduled for today.

Opposition Leader Comments

PY062103 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 6 Oct 81 p 2

[Text] Leaders of the Radical Liberal Party [PLR], on a special invitation from the U.S. Embassy in this country, yesterday had a meeting with Mr Robert Service, director of the State Department Office for Southern Cone Affairs, who arrived in our capital recently.

Liberal sources said that the meeting between German Acosta Caballero and Enzo Doldan, representing the PLR and Mr Robert Service was held in a cordial atmosphere. They also said that Mr Service showed great interest during the meeting for the functioning of the various political opposition parties in this country.

Enzo Doldan who participated in the meeting said that "Mr Robert Service showed, in fact, a lively interest in the institutional functioning of the political opposition parties in this country. We had a broad dialogue which comprised topics related to U.S. policy and Paraguay." He added: "We also analyzed what the general conditions of the country should be for the United States to give smoother economic support to Paraguay."

Mr Doldan also said that "during our talk with Mr Service, which lasted for about 2 hours, the cordial relations between our country and the United States were stressed as the basis for promoting a greater rapprochement between the two countries."

The radical leader further said that human rights was another subject discussed during yesterday's meeting and in this connection he stated that "Mr Service understood our point of view on human rights perfectly, just as we understood his."

Mr Enzo Doldan concluded by asserting: "Our meeting with the American leader developed in a climate of friendliness and understanding. It leaves a balance of optimism among political opposition leaders. I believe that frequent visits of this nature by representatives of the United States will create a favorable climate between the two countries."

The meeting was also attended by U.S. Ambassador Lyle F. Lane and members of the diplomatic corps.

Colorado Party Leader Comments

PY071937 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Oct 81 p 11

[Excerpt] Yesterday and the day before Robert Service, director of the State Department Office for Southern Cone Affairs, talked with all the political sectors

of the country, as well as with representatives of the workers sector, the media and the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights. Robert Service himself met with members of the Colorado, Liberal and Radical parties, of the National Accord as well as the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights and the media.

According to the persons who met with the U.S. representative the invitations were made by U.S. Ambassador Lyle Lane who also attended the meetings together with other authorities of the U.S. Embassy such as Robert Ford Cooper, Roger McGuire and Robert Luaces.

Yesterday Leandro Prieto Yegros, Colorado Party deputy, stated that "yesterday we held a wide-ranging dialogue with Robert Service on the political, economic and historic reality of our country. Deputy Prieto Yegros as well as Ruben Stanley, Pedro Hugo Pena and Bernardo Ocampos Arbo met with the director of the U.S. State Department Office for Southern Cone Affairs.

Further on Prieto Yegros pointed out that "the meeting with Mr Service was very cordial and pleasant and during the course of it we discussed our country's historic reality in the first place and then referred to the economic reality and lastly to the political reality."

Prieto Yegros added that "during the meeting many political commentaries on our country, the United States and other countries of the world were made. We held a fluid dialogue and the exchange of opinions was very productive for the two parties because it allows one to gather information."

Prieto Yegros also stated that "during the meeting we also discussed the draft law which will modify the electoral law and the system of the political parties in our country. We answered Service's questions and expanded on some of the data he himself had at hand."

CSO: 3010/69

EDITORIAL LAMENTS WEAPONS EXPENDITURES

PY072103 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 4 Oct 81 p 5

[Editorial: "Terrifying Competition"]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has just announced a giant undertaking which will reportedly cost billions of dollars, to be spent on the manufacture of the most refined weapons that can be conceived of at the present time.

Some time ago, various strategic studies were given wide publicity; they seemed to show that the Soviet Union possesses another arsenal, just as colossal as the American. This means that the world is laboring under the tremendous burden of armaments which are so colossal that they can destroy the world.

The amounts spent for this are simply staggering. According to official analysts, the Soviet Union has had to postpone all aspirations of giving its people prosperity, because it has to maintain such a colossal nuclear arsenal. In fact, bread has given way to the manufacture of guns there.

Under the present circumstances not even the U.S. economy shows any reassuring signs of solidity. The protests from various sectors deprived of social services are a reality reflected in numerous demonstrations all over the United States.

The thing is that the resources needed to build up these enormous arsenals must come from somewhere, and there is no doubt where they are going to come from: the people, at the expense of their well-being. This will affect not only the peoples directly involved in this arms race. The Soviets are wringing their satellites dry in order to obtain these funds. This has a lot to do with the Polish upheaval.

Meanwhile, things in the western part of the world are hardly better. The latest meeting of the IMF and the World Bank served to show that the countries whose economies are tied to U.S. influence have little to expect from these institutions. All this means that in getting ready for a hypothetical conflict, even at the expense of suffering humanity's most terrible scourge; hunger, we are marching along the edge of an abyss.

Undoubtedly, the U.S. reaction was only to be expected. One of the fighters can hardly sit down and twiddle his thumbs while the other one is constantly building

up its arsenals. In the specific case of the Soviet Union, it is not only building up its arsenals but also creating severe tension throughout the rest of the world with its desire to impose its imperialist yoke riding on top of communist ideology.

Being far from the core of the conflict and having no possibilities whatsoever to exert any influence on this painful confrontation, little can be accomplished. But at least one can retain his faith in ethics by clearly pointing out the threats looming over our world today. If at least every dweller of this planet could be made aware of these facts, one could perhaps harbor a glimmer of hope that the four horsemen of the apocalypse would ride the world no more.

CSO: 3010/69

BELAUNDE ON TERRORISM, INFLATION, INDUSTRY, CUBAN REFUGEES

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 21 Sep 81 p A-4

[Text] Yesterday the chief of state reiterated that this government will not play the game of those who claim that violence should be answered with violence.

"We have not come to claim victims or cause deaths. We only want the people to be reasonable," he added.

President Fernando Belaunde Terry was referring to recent terrorist attacks.

He explained that the government position on the situation created by those actions is difficult and complicated. "When there is a scratch or a person slips and falls, there are immediate claims that human rights are being violated," he pointed out.

He said that he was making a new call to all Peruvians, especially those who are not aligned with him politically, to cooperate in a "government of dignity and security for all."

Measures

After pointing out that the minister of interior was capable of handling the problem, Belaunde indicated that the terrorist attacks respond to a strategy and an investment. He pointed out that those actions are costly for their perpetrators. Measures have been taken that, in the short term, will permit the arrest of the perpetrators.

He said that when he referred a week ago to "a neighboring country" as the alleged base for the terrorist actions, he did not specify any nation because "6 years in government have given me enough experience to say what I should and nothing more."

Belaunde recalled the recent Civil Guard victims of the terrorists, indicating that they were in a worse position. He said: "Inside that uniform is a poor citizen, as poor or poorer than the one who killed him."

Inflation

After pointing out that inflation was about 39 percent in the first 6 months, he said that it must not go above 20 percent in the second half. This would mean no more than 60 percent by the end of 1981.

He said that there will only be an inflation rate of 45 percent in 1982.

To support those percentages, he said that there is excellent news about new oil discoveries by PETROPERU [State Petroleum Agency] and Occidental, in addition to the secondary recovery on the northern coast of the country.

Referring to the mining sector, he made a renewed call to the striking workers to help solve the problems that persist.

Industry

As to the industrial sector, he said that the Tripartite Commission is going to consider the problem in depth in order to propose legislative measures to create new jobs.

With respect to the demands of the Industries Association, the president said that they are partially justified but that the government cannot act on the position of a single sector since there are other sectors like the exporting sector that have other demands.

He stated that, because of low industrial investment and high commercial activity, the encouragement of production is fundamental. One example is the agrarian sector which will yield good results this year, especially in rice production.

Enterprises

Concerning the state enterprises that might be deactivated or become joint enterprises, Belaunde said that none of their workers should feel threatened. "I have not become president to leave the people in the street but, rather, to create jobs."

He pointed out that that topic which Prime Minister Manuel Ulloa referred to 3 days ago will be handled carefully.

In the social ownership sector, he stated that a good professional like Ruben Sana-bria is in charge. They are studying which enterprises had losses.

Tribes

Belaunde denied that the habitat of some tribes is affected by the work in the jungle. He stressed that the government and he personally are very careful not to violate their rights. He added that, on the contrary, they are trying to help them in the fields of employment, health and education, contributing to improve their standard of living.

Cubans

Referring to the Cuban refugees, President Belaunde said that they have had a year to incorporate themselves into Peruvian society. He said that although some have done this in this capital, it would be good for others to live in the interior.

He said that the government is willing to provide the necessary support because it is time they had a stable home, not remain in tents.

7717

CSO: 3010/20

BRIEFS

PROPOSED COOPERATION AGREEMENT--The PAP [Aprista Party of Peru] last night asked for a "national agreement" with the AP [Popular Action] and the PPC [Popular Christian Party] to solve the problems of the country and to support the democracy. There was a rally in front of the PAP main office on Avenida Alfonso Ugarte but it was diluted by a steady drizzle. Fernando Leon de Vivero, PAP secretary general, said that all the political forces in the country must pledge to uphold the present state of law and not return to a de facto regime. Leon de Vivero, a member of the Chamber of Deputies, said that a "national agreement" with all the democratic and popular parties is necessary. He especially wanted the AP and the PPC to participate. Referring to a speech by Cesar Lopez Silva, president of the Peruvian Medical Federation, who practically called for a popular uprising, Leon de Vivero said that it was necessary to support President Fernando Belaunde Terry and not destroy the democracy. Leon de Vivero's speech was moderate, in general, compared to Lopez Silva's speech. PAP deputies Jesus Guzman Gallardo and Guillermo Larco Cox also spoke. Before the rally on Avenida Alfonso Ugarte, different PAP committees paraded through the main streets of this capital, shouting antigovernment slogans. Then the different groups gathered in front of the main office, filling a large part of that block. Nevertheless, shortly after the rally began--about 2200 hours--people started to leave because of the drizzle. The rally ended an hour later. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Sep 81 p A-4] 7717

CSO: 3010/20

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27 Oct 1981

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